Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XVIII, Issue No. 260 | TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 16, 2008 | www.saipantribune.com | 50¢

Visit us online @ www.saipantribune.com

OPINION METER

This week's poll:

Do you conduct emergency drills at home?

Let your voice be heard! Go to www.saipantribune.com to cast your vote.

INSIDE

Failed Rescue

A plan to rescue Lehman Brothers has failed, followed by a takeover of Merrill Lynch by BofA for $50 billion.

BUSINESS...Page 14

Aftermath

Rescuers said they saved nearly 2,000 people from the waterlogged streets and splintered houses left behind by Hurricane Ike.

NATION...Page 15

IN LAWSUIT VS FEDERALIZATION LAW

'No support from Legislature'

By AGNES E. DONATO
agnes_donato@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial should not expect support from the Legislature for the legal action he filed against the U.S. government on Friday over the CNMI's new immigration law, according to House Speaker Arnold I. Palacios.

Palacios

See NO on Page 4

"The governor is going down this road alone."
—House Speaker Arnold I. Palacios

CHILD PASSENGER SAFETY WEEK JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial signs the proclamation declaring Sept. 20, as Seat Check Saturday and Sept. 21-27 as Child Passenger Safety Week while acting DPS Commissioner Santiago F. Tudela looks on at the governor's conference room on Capital Hill yesterday. The activity is in line with the department's mission to promote proper use of child safety seats to reduce death and serious injury among children in the CNMI.

Transfer of PSS funds to CUC questioned

By KRISTI EATON
kristi_eaton@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A recent reallocation of $1.6 million from the Public School System's personnel and "all others" funds to the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. is being called "underhanded" by the then-PSS Education Commissioner.

On July 10, Craig Garrison, then

See TRANSFER on Page 4

Press secretary Charles Reyes Jr., Attorney General Matthew T. Gregory and assistant attorney general Jeffery L. Warfield Sr., talk about Kazuyoshi Miura's extradition case with members of the Japanese and local media during a press briefing at the CNMI courthouse in Susupe yesterday.
JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

High Court stays Miura extradition

4th LAPD officers arrive to escort Miura

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The CNMI Supreme Court yesterday afternoon granted Kazuyoshi Miura's request to hold off the Superior Court's order for his extradition to Los Angeles, California, while his appeal is pending.

This developed as Attorney General Matthew Gregory, assistant attorney general Jeffery Warfield Sr., and press secretary Charles Reyes

See HIGH on Page 4

Tonight's federalization forum features blunt speakers . **PAGE 3**
Fitial thumbs down CUC privatization bill. **PAGE 5**

Hans Mickelson

FAMILY CONNECTS
Share your cellular minutes with your family
Airtime Sharing · Unlimited Push-To-Talk · Unlimited Nights & Weekends

iCONNECT
Embracing Saipan's Families
Saipan - Guam Office:
888-8888
www.iconnectsaipan.com

PLEASE VOTE

ATALIG, FELIFE
NORITA QUITUGUA

Issue no. 1: "Radiation Exposure Compensation Act of 1990"

A brief historical review of the U. S. Atomic Commission and their nuclear testing which took place in the Marshall Islands in the early to—mid 1950's reveals that residents were affected by the detonation that occurred then. It is possible that many people were exposed to radioactive elements.

Later in 2006, nineteen forms of cancer were detected in the CNMI possibly caused by the nuclear testing carried out at Bikini Atoll during the 1950's. This is a staggering and terribly disturbing fact. These victims could be immediate family members, relatives, neighbors, loved ones, or perhaps even yourself!

I am committed to push for the inclusion of the CNMI in the RECA. Guam has already done it and we need to do the same. We need to seek as much as $100,000 renumeration for each patient affected by the radiation. My first priority would be to establish an office for RECA where victims can come out and be heard. We will then move on from there to claim our rights.

"A man with a clear vision and understanding of the issues that matter now"

9. ATALIG, Felipe Norita Quitugua

Paid by Committee to elect Atalig, Felipe Norita Quitugua Chairman Danny Quitugua

WSR school conducts tsunami drill

By KRISTI EATON
kristi_eaton@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

More than 700 students, teachers and administrators from the William S. Reyes Elementary School took part in a tsunami drill yesterday morning.

"We want to make sure students are safe at all times," principal Lynette Villagomez said.

The entire school population was able to get to the safe zone at Parks and Recreation in 20 minutes and 40 seconds—nearly 10 minutes faster than the 30-minute goal, she said.

The drill was part of Disaster Preparedness Month.

Officials from the Emergency Management Office, Department of Public Safety, Homeland Security, Red Cross, and the Fire Department took part and critiqued the performance afterward.

The drill was recommended as part of the school's accreditation, and administrators asked if the drill could be evaluated. Villagomez said.

Villagomez said the students were told there would be a drill some time in the morning. Overall, she said, the children did well.

"Some kids were running at first, but that's something we can fix," she added.

She said administrators realized radios would be helpful to have during drills. It would make it easier to verify everyone's location instead of having to physically run there. Villagomez said she would like to conduct a tsunami drill every quarter, as the school does for fire drills. There are procedures for an earthquake but no drills set yet, she said.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

CNMI Emergency Management Office personnel, Department of Public Safety officers and William S. Reyes Elementary School teachers gather for a post-drill review discussion shortly after the tsunami drill at the WSR campus yesterday morning. The activity was done in observance of Disaster Preparedness Month.

Outages Sunday; 40 MWs yesterday

By KRISTI EATON
kristi_eaton@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Despite the additional 13 megawatts from the emergency Aggreko generators, parts of Saipan were in the dark for about an hour Sunday night.

Engine six in Power Plant 1 was shut down temporarily, which took out feeders 4 and 7, said Commonwealth Utilities Corp. executive director Antonio Muña.

Muña

Kiyas 2 and 4 were also down temporarily while engines were transferred and a transformer was brought online.

"We really are trying, as far as brownouts, we are event-free," Muña said. "Aggreko was to once and for all get rid of brownouts."

On Friday, the generators produced an additional eight megawatts of power to the island. Five more megawatts were added on Sunday. The final shipment of two generators, producing two megawatts, was expected to arrive yesterday, but it has been delayed until Sept. 21. The generators should be online by Sept. 25, Muña said.

"It was an unavoidable delay by the shipping company," he added.

If 35 to 40 megawatts of power are produced, the island should be fine, he said.

There were some unexpected large loads that tried to connect to CUC power without proper coordination, he said. However, the community institutions, which have been running on their own power, have access to CUC grids so they are not required to obtain permission.

"Any community that is generally offline, if they need to do maintenance, as long as we schedule, we can accommodate it," he said.

As Power Plants 1 and 2 begin providing more power, CUC can start looking at adding the loads to the grids, he added.

Also, Muña reiterated that there is an adequate supply of fuel for the engines.

He said there were no concerns about the fuel pipeline.

"There were misconceptions that we were using a simple garden hose," he said, adding that that is not the case. A tanker will be used by the end of the week, he said.

As of yesterday afternoon, CUC's Power Plants 1 and 2 were producing 14.5 megawatts, while the privately run Power Plant 4 produced 13 to 14 megawatts and the Aggreko generators provided 13 megawatts, for a total of 40.5 to 41.5 megawatts.

Serena Promotion 2008
Sept. 16 thru Sept. 30
$120
FOR 4 PEOPLE
+1 INFANT
WORLD RESORT
SAIPAN
RATE DESCRIPTION
. 1 night stay for 4 persons + 1 infant
. Complimentary breakfast for 2 at The World Buffet or Lunch for 2 at Rush Hour 799
. Unlimited use of Wave Jungle and sports activities starting on the day of check-in until 5pm on checkout day
. 10% Goverment Tax is included
CONDITIONS/RESTRICTIONS
. Exclusively for Saipan, Tinian, and Rota residents
. A valid proof of residence is required upon check-in
. Failure to provide such proof will result in the revision of the booking rate. Unrestricted rate available on the day of check-in.
. Only registered guests may enter Wave Jungle facility
. Maximum per room: 4 persons + 1 infant
. Age Description: 1 person, 3 years and above. Infant:0-2 years
For more information and reservations, please call 234-5907

Tonight's federalization forum to feature forthright speakers

Community urged to attend, watch live on the Web

Several notable and outspoken individuals will be leading the discussion at tonight's roundtable discussion, which will take on the impact of federalization on local culture.

Panelists will include Rep. Tina Sablan, Gregorio Cruz, Irene Tantiado, NMC president Dr. Camen Fernandez, Edwin Propst, Oscar Rasa, Viola Alepuyo and Sam McPhetres. Lawyer Robert Torres will be moderating the discussion as well as collecting questions from the community through the audience members.

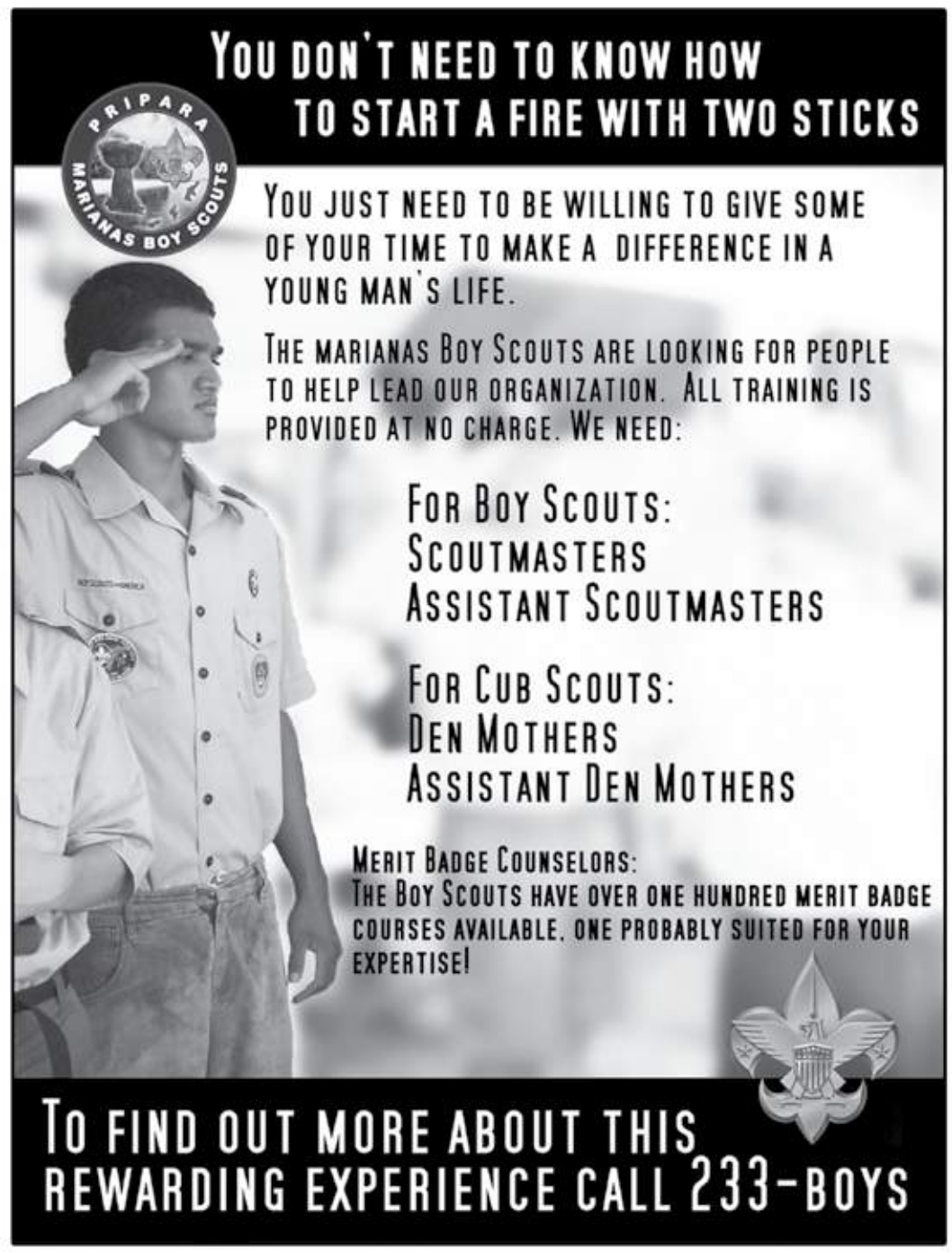
The discussion will be held tonight, Sept. 16, 2008, from 7pm to 8:30pm at the American Memorial Park Auditorium. Those not able to personally attend the roundtable session can view and participate in the dialogue by logging on to www.wethepeoplecnmi.com, where the discussion will be streamed live.

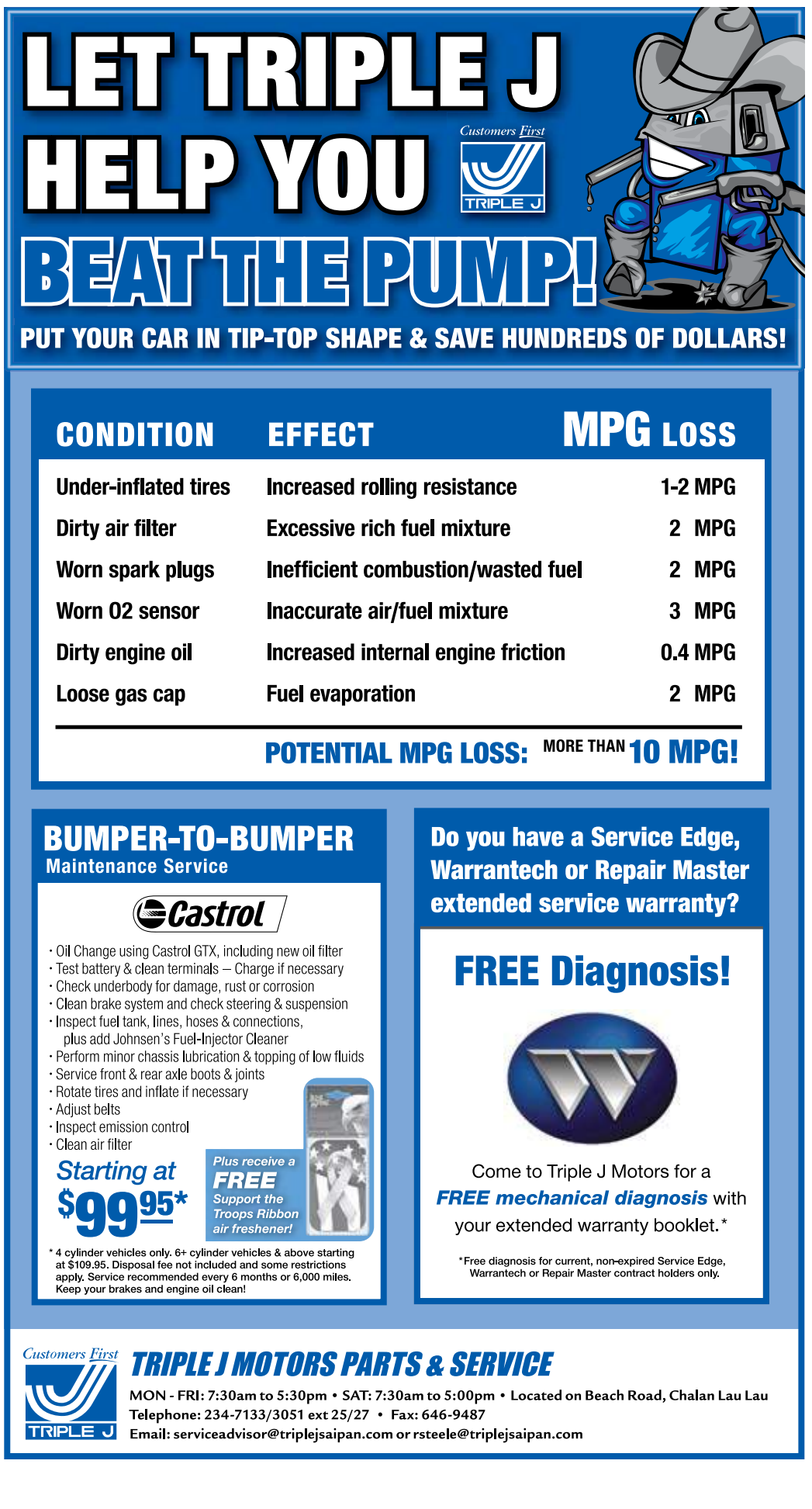
The discussion will center on the federalization's impact on local culture, particularly in light of other globalization trends: the widespread use of the Internet, the ease of travel restrictions around the world, the advancement of technology, and an economy that commands an international supply chain, and other agents of change.

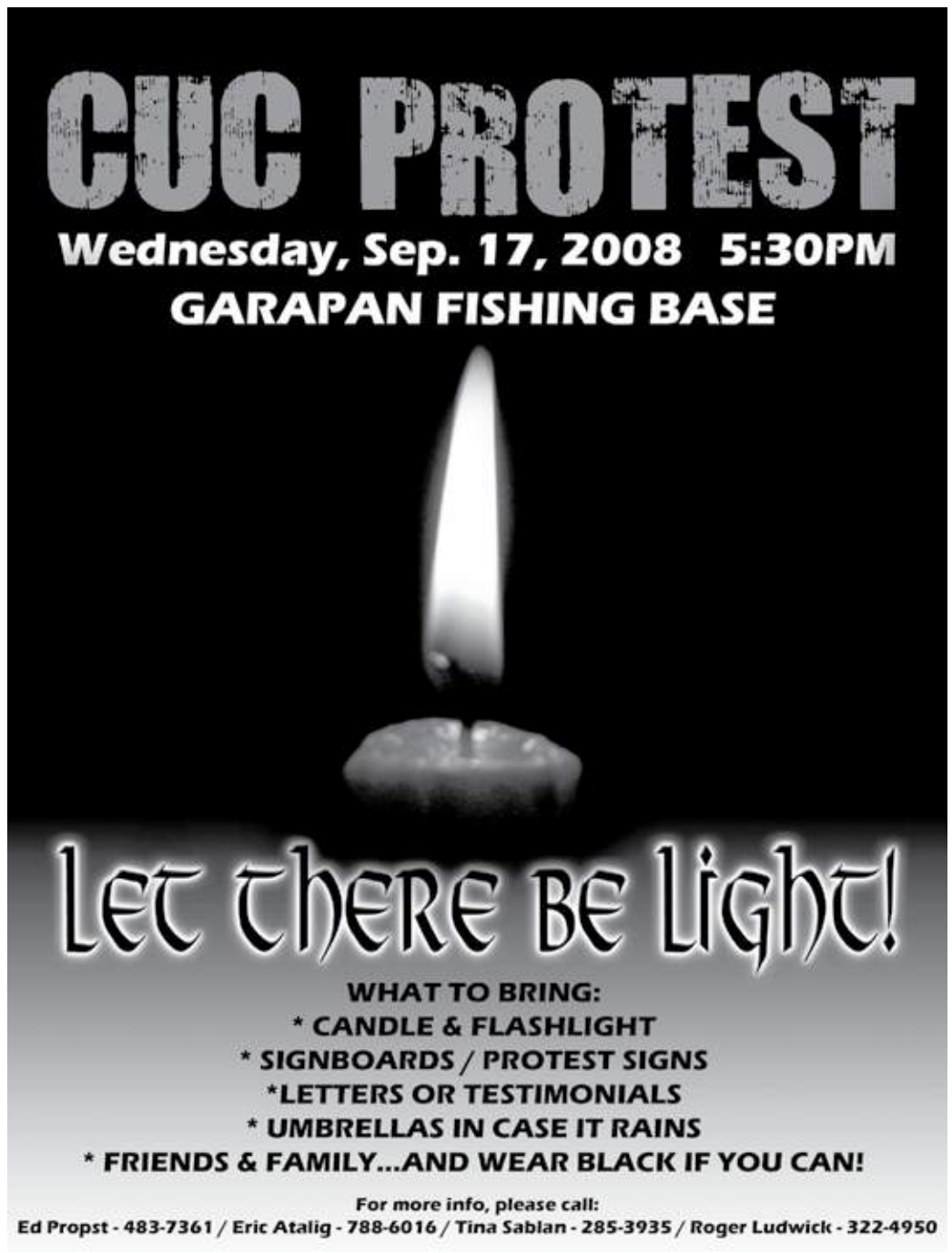
The CNMI is certainly not immune to what is happening in the global arena. Residents need only to look at the meteoric rise of the price of gasoline to see how events in other parts of the world are impacting life here. Given all these, what of the local culture? How will the CNMI's inevitable integration into the larger global structure impact local culture? And more specifically, given the agents of change mentioned above, what role would the recent federalization of labor and immigration play? As the CNMI becomes more a part of the bigger U.S. family, could federalization be the saving grace of local culture? Or, could it hasten its disappearance? These are only some of the questions that will be discussed at the roundtable discussion.

Participants will be using some literary material as a basis for the thought provoking discussion. The material can be downloaded from www.wethepeoplecnmi.com.

NMI Council for the Humanities is hosting the roundtable discussion as part of the Council's We the People project. It is being organized by Taro Leaf, Inc. ***(PR)***


YOU DON'T NEED TO KNOW HOW TO START A FIRE WITH TWO STICKS
PRIPARA MARIANAS BOY SCOUTS
YOU JUST NEED TO BE WILLING TO GIVE SOME OF YOUR TIME TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN A YOUNG MAN'S LIFE.
THE MARIANAS BOY SCOUTS ARE LOOKING FOR PEOPLE TO HELP LEAD OUR ORGANIZATION. ALL TRAINING IS PROVIDED AT NO CHARGE. WE NEED:
FOR BOY SCOUTS:
SCOUTMASTERS
ASSISTANT SCOUTMASTERS
FOR CUB SCOUTS:
DEN MOTHERS
ASSISTANT DEN MOTHERS
MERIT BADGE COUNSELORS:
THE BOY SCOUTS HAVE OVER ONE HUNDRED MERIT BADGE COURSES AVAILABLE. ONE PROBABLY SUITED FOR YOUR EXPERTISE!
TO FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THIS REWARDING EXPERIENCE CALL 233-BOYS


LET TRIPLE J HELP YOU
Customers First
TRIPLE J
BEAT THE PUMP!
PUT YOUR CAR IN TIP-TOP SHAPE & SAVE HUNDREDS OF DOLLARS!
CONDITION
EFFECT
MPG LOSS
Under-inflated tires
Increased rolling resistance
1-2 MPG
Dirty air filter
Excessive rich fuel mixture
2 MPG
Worn spark plugs
Inefficient combustion/wasted fuel
2 MPG
Worn O2 sensor
Inaccurate air/fuel mixture
3 MPG
Dirty engine oil
Increased internal engine friction
0.4 MPG
Loose gas cap
Fuel evaporation
2 MPG
POTENTIAL MPG LOSS: MORE THAN 10 MPG!
BUMPER-TO-BUMPER
Maintenance Service
Castrol
· Oil Change using Castrol GTX, including new oil filter
· Test battery & clean terminals – Charge if necessary
· Check underbody for damage, rust or corrosion
· Clean brake system and check steering & suspension
· Inspect fuel tank, lines, hoses & connections, plus add Johnsen's Fuel-Injector Cleaner
· Perform minor chassis lubrication & topping of low fluids
· Service front & rear axle boots & joints
· Rotate tires and inflate if necessary
· Adjust belts
· Inspect emission control
· Clean air filter
Starting at $99.95*
Plus receive a FREE Support the Troops Ribbon air freshener!
* 4 cylinder vehicles only. 6+ cylinder vehicles & above starting at $109.95. Disposal fee not included and some restrictions apply. Service recommended every 6 months or 6,000 miles. Keep your brakes and engine oil clean!
Do you have a Service Edge, Warrantech or Repair Master extended service warranty?
FREE Diagnosis!
Come to Triple J Motors for a FREE mechanical diagnosis with your extended warranty booklet.*
*Free diagnosis for current, non-expired Service Edge, Warrantech or Repair Master contract holders only.
Customers First
TRIPLE J MOTORS PARTS & SERVICE
MON - FRI: 7:30am to 5:30pm • SAT: 7:30am to 5:00pm • Located on Beach Road, Chalan Lau Lau
Telephone: 234-7133/3051 ext 25/27 • Fax: 646-9487
Email: serviceadvisor@triplejsaipan.com or rsteele@triplejsaipan.com


CUC PROTEST
Wednesday, Sep. 17, 2008 5:30PM
GARAPAN FISHING BASE
Let there be Light!
WHAT TO BRING:
* CANDLE & FLASHLIGHT
* SIGNBOARDS / PROTEST SIGNS
*LETTERS OR TESTIMONIALS
* UMBRELLAS IN CASE IT RAINS
* FRIENDS & FAMILY...AND WEAR BLACK IF YOU CAN!
For more info, please call:
Ed Propst - 483-7361 / Eric Atalig - 788-6016 / Tina Sablan - 285-3935 / Roger Ludwick - 322-4950

House of Mahoben runs out of funds

The Karidat social service has called on the Legislature to keep its teen center open by provide funds for the program

Angie V. Deleon Guerrero, executive director at Karidat, said the House of Manhoben will run out of funds at the end of this month.

Over the years, the House of Manhoben has been a sub-grantee of federal funds from the Criminal Justice Planning Agency. The current grant will expire on Sept. 30, 2008. As of last Friday, Karidat has not received word about continuation of funding for the program.

"Due to the lack of funding beyond Sept. 30, Karidat has no other resources nor option but to close the Teen Center," Deleon Guerrero said.

She said the Legislature could help by appropriating at least $12,250 for the "bare necessities" of the House of Manhoben just to tie it over until the CJPA becomes available in January 2009. About $8,000 is for the salary, and $4,000 for the health insurance and benefits of the program coordinator.

"I hope that you can help us with a proactive approach to help Karidat keep its door open for the many youths who come to avail themselves with the program offered at the Teen Center," Deleon Guerrero said. ***(Agnes E. Donato)***

BPI, PSE to support APAFS' 8th conference

Now on its third time in Manila, the much-anticipated 8th Annual Pacific Region Investment Conference will be held on Oct. 9-10, 2008 at the Grand Ballroom of the Renaissance Makati City Hotel.

The annual event is hosted by the Asia Pacific Association for Fiduciary Studies as a means of providing a regional resource for reviewing the latest trends, practices, and issues in fiduciary management.

Among this year's sponsors is well-known Philippine company BPI Asset Management, an independent unit of the Bank of the Philippine Islands and the current local industry leader in asset management, while sponsors from the Asia Pacific Region include Citi Smith Barney, Janus Intech, Franklin Templeton Institutional, Atalanta Sosnoff, ASC Trust Corporation, SM Guam, and BNP Paribas Investment Partners, to name a few. The 8th Annual Investment Conference is also made possible with the support of the Philippine Stock Exchange, CFA Philippines, Financial Executives Institute of the Philippines, Trust Officers Association of the Philippines and The Graduate School, USDA.

This year's keynote speaker is legendary contrarian investor Dr. Marc Faber, editor and publisher of *The Gloom, Boom & Doom Report* (www.gloomboomdoom.com), together with Philippine Sen. Edgardo Angara, author of PERA Law and REIT Act, as featured speaker.

In addition, a variety of presentations and lectures on pertinent fiduciary issues have been prepared by the conference's roster of notable guests. The two-day affair is expected to draw more than 300 participants representing various companies and organizations all over the region.

Participants will listen to financial experts and professionals from the U.S. and around the Pacific Rim, learn about the latest trends and practices in fiduciary management, network with hundreds of individuals and organizations from the fiduciary industry, and get complimentary membership from the Asia Pacific Association for Fiduciary Studies.

To register, call 1-671-649-0883 or e-mail admin@apafs.org. For more information about APAFS and the 8th Annual Pacific Region Investment Conference including conference registration details, visit their website at www.apafs.org or contact their secretariat at 1-671-649-0883. ***(APAFS)***

TRANSFER

From Page 1

acting Commissioner, met with Finance Secretary Eloy Inos to discuss PSS' outstanding payments to CUC.

Garrison, the vice principal at Saipan Southern High School, said that during the discussion, Inos said he wanted to use PSS' surplus funds to repay PSS' past debts to the utility company.

"Well, I said, 'I don't have a problem with excess funds being used, but before you go ahead, you crunch your numbers and I'll have my finance department crunch our numbers," Garrison said. "There was no number crunching, no information shared."

In an e-mail sent later that day, Inos outlined the transfer, stating there would be sufficient funds to cover normal payroll expenditures through the end of the fiscal year. He found there would be $668,000 left over in the "all others" fund category and $764,000 in the personnel category, according to the e-mail.

However, according to a copy of the e-mail, Garrison did not receive it until Aug. 4, when Inos' assistant forwarded it to him after he asked repeatedly for it, Garrison said. The original e-mail address had been typed incorrectly.

Garrison said he began asking about the $1. 6 million transfer after PSS acting Finance Director Lori Grizzard called CUC to ask about wattage usage and a "CUC representative thanked her for the contribution," Garrison said. That was the first he had heard about the transfer, he said.

"The discussion was we were going to both crunch numbers, but that didn't happen," Garrison added.

On Friday, Inos said he discussed the situation with Garrison and advised him PSS needed to pay the expenditures, and as a result, the money was transferred to CUC.

Inos said he looked at the projected payroll through the end of the fiscal year and "saw there were funds available," adding that his decision is supported by PSS' ability to pay for teacher leave.

After Garrison was forwarded the e-mail on Aug. 4, he responded with an e-mail pointing out the incorrect address and stating he looked forward to working "towards equity and fairness in transparency" with the Finance Department.

During a PSS Board of Education meeting last month, the reallocation of the $1.6 million was raised because the board was unaware of the transfer.

When asked if there would be a surplus, BOE chair Lucy Blanco-Maratita said yesterday some money might have remained since the start of school was delayed.

"But not surplus as we still have operations and utilities cost that were underfunded; we also have employees' benefits and other personnel obligations that we need to take care of," she said in an e-mail.

Meanwhile, PSS still owes CUC an additional $1.8 million for past utilities, said CUC executive director Antonio Muña.

Muña said he realizes PSS has its own budget constraints and he is trying to be patient, but the payments are necessary with CUC's current financial issues.

When asked if the outstanding payments could affect CUC's ability to pay the more than $500,000 to Aggreko for the emergency generators in less than a month, he said, "It's really important. There's no denying that. It's really important that all customers' billings are addressed…we've assured payment and work with them to see what can be done to realize it."

HIGH

From Page 1

Jr. disclosed during a press briefing that four members of the Los Angeles Police Department were set to arrive on Saipan last night (Monday).

The LAPD officers were supposed to pick up the 61-year-old Miura from the Department of Corrections and escort him back to L.A. to face charges that he conspired to have his wife killed in 1981.

The judiciary's spokesperson, Gin Gridley, and Supreme Court clerk Jonathan Grayson announced the high court's decision during a press conference attended by many Japanese journalists.

Gridley and Grayson said that arguments will be held on Sept. 23, 2008, at 2pm before chief justice Miguel S. Demapan, associate justice Alexandro Castro, and a yet to be appointed associate justice pro tempore.

Associate justice John Manglona had recused himself from the case because the judge who is handling the Miura case, Superior Court associate judge Ramona V. Manglona, is his wife, Grayson said.

In his two-page order, Demapan said he granted the motion to stay the extradition and removal pending appeal, after reviewing Miura's arguments.

Demapan promised to treat the appeal in an expedited fashion. He ordered the parties in the case to file their briefs no later than 9am Sept. 22, 2008.

In addition to issues the parties believe relevant to the resolution of the appeal, the chief justice also directed the parties to address the following questions:

■ Would extradition during pendency of the appeal effectively deny Miura his right of appeal under Commonwealth law?

■ Under California v. Superior Court of California, 482 U.S. 400 (1987), or other relevant precedent, is this court precluded from considering the effect of California's double jeopardy statutes on the legality of appellant's incarceration in the Commonwealth and potential extradition to California?

On Friday, Judge Manglona in an oral decision denied Miura's petition for habeas corpus and ordered his extradition to L.A.

Manglona issued the written decision yesterday. In that order, she ruled that Miura's concurrent legal challenge in California does not affect the matters to be considered and the established standard for considering them in his extradition proceeding.

"In this case, this court cannot protract this summary process proceeding upon speculations as to what the California court will decide," said Manglona in the order denying the for habeas corpus and motion to stay extradition.

Manglona said she must make a decision based on the evidence as it exists at the time of the hearing on the writ of habeas corpus.

OFFICIAL UNVEILING
Gov. Benigno R. Fitial and other dignitaries look at the new Governor's Welcome Board during its unveiling ceremony inside the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport last week.
JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

NO

From Page 1

In an interview yesterday, Palacios said the lawmakers remain strongly against any lawsuit to block the pending federal takeover of the Commonwealth's immigration system.

"The governor is going down this road alone," he said.

Not only is the lawsuit premature, Palacios said, it may have long-lasting negative consequences for the Commonwealth as well. By choosing litigation over negotiation, the CNMI may further damage its already delicate relations with the federal government.

Palacios noted that the U.S. government has repeatedly expressed its intent to work with local leaders. He said that Doug Domenech, the U.S. Department of the Interior's deputy chief of staff and acting deputy assistant secretary for insular affairs, affirmed this commitment during a recent visit by the speaker, Senate President Pete P. Reyes, and House Committee on Federal and Foreign Affairs Chairman Diego Benavente to Washington.

In a letter following that visit, Domenech told Palacios that Interior Secretary Dirk Kempthorne "is aware and shares your concern that the application of the federal immigration law be in the CNMI's and the nation's best interest."

The price tag of the lawsuit is another major issue, Palacios said. He noted that the cost of pursuing the case could go well beyond the current estimate. "This is not going to be a $400,000 adventure. It will be a protracted battle, and the taxpayers will end up paying for it," he said.

Palacios repeated calls made by other lawmakers for Fitial to identify where he plans to get the money for the lawsuit.

Sen. Maria T. Pangelinan, chairwoman of the Senate Committee on Fiscal Affairs, had expressed shocked that Fitial filed the lawsuit without the Legislature's approval. In an earlier interview, Pangelinan pointed out that Fitial still has to answer to the Legislature about the funding source for the lawsuit. She noted that the administration might have more money than it is reporting.

Wendy Doromal, a labor rights activist who supports the "federalization" of local immigration, echoed this call. "The people of the CNMI have a right to know what public or private funds are being used to fund this lawsuit. The taxpayers of the U.S. who have paid millions in taxes to fund CNMI projects and programs have the right to know," she wrote in her web log.

Doromal added, "I suggest that Fitial stick his hand back in his pocket—the one he has outstretched to the federal government seeking funds for the CNMI. If, in these troubled times, the governor can locate and allocate $400,000 in public funds to sue the federal government, then he has no right to continually seek federal funds. No right at all."

Fitial filed the lawsuit in the U.S. District Court for the District Columbia. The U.S. Department of Homeland Security and the U.S. Department of Labor were named as defendants. The suit contends that the immigration legislation behind it threatens to cripple the local economy and breaches the terms of the Commonwealth's Covenant with the United States.

"We can resolve questions of fact by negotiation; and we can resolve questions of policy by negotiation. But we cannot resolve important questions of law except in the court," Fitial said in a statement Friday.

Fitial thumbs down CUC privatization bill

By AGNES E. DONATO
agnes_donato@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial vetoed yesterday a bill requiring the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. to privatize its power division, citing numerous provisions that he said would lead to higher costs for CUC.

The bill would have mandated CUC to sell its power system for at least $250 million through a bid process. It also proposed to restore the CUC board of directors, which Fitial abolished in 2006.

In a three-page veto message to the Legislature, Fitial challenged the bill's stated intent, which is for CUC to secure reliable services at affordable rates through privatization. He argued that affordability is relative to every customer.

"Realistically, the best that could be expected of CUC is to provide reliable services at the least amount of cost. In that CUC is successful in attaining least cost in the provision of reliable services, we are hopeful that for all customers the rates will then be affordable and within their respective financial means," Fitial said.

Fitial

The governor enumerated the deficiencies which he said would increase CUC's costs of operations or would push the rates further up.

Factoring in the $250-million price tag for the power system and CUC's current monthly sales of 20 million kWh, and assuming a 10 percent return on investment and recovery of principal over a period of 40 years, the power rate could increase by 10 cents per kWh, Fitial said.

He also attacked the requirement for any contractor operating the plant to have five years experience in compliance with emission standards set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. He said this may preclude international companies who have experience with power plant operations and capable of compliance, but not having five years experience, from bidding.

The provisions for the protection of CUC employees, according to Fitial, are overly broad and may lead to the successful bidder retaining even those employees who are not performing well.

Requiring CUC to obtain legislative consent before getting any loan over $500,000 would be an administrative burden to the utility, he added.

The governor also said that CUC's cash flow would suffer if residential customers are allowed to finance any outstanding account for up to one year. The same impact is expected if CUC is prohibited from disconnecting delinquent customers who are covered by the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program.

"While I commend the Legislature for its continued efforts to resolve the power crisis of the Commonwealth, the legislation as passed presents many deficiencies," Fitial said. "I encourage the Legislature to work with CUC to develop this measure further to achieve successfully its intended purpose."

Wiseman drops sexual abuse case as key witnesses have left islands

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Following the prosecution's recommendations, Superior Court Associate Judge David A. Wiseman dismissed yesterday a sexual abuse case as key witnesses are no longer in the CNMI.

Wiseman granted the Attorney General's Office's motion to dismiss without prejudice the case against Noke Lee Rogopes.

"The court does not believe that a dismissal without prejudice at this time would expose the defendant to prosecutorial harassment or abuse," he said.

Dismissal without prejudice refers to dismissal that leaves the plaintiff or prosecution free to try the case again later if circumstances change.

Wiseman said the crime alleged is serious enough that the government should not be barred from trying the case if the witnesses return to the CNMI.

The judge said the case will be dismissed without prejudice, but the government has until next year to re-file the case.

"If the witnesses central to the government's case cannot be located within the next 12 months, then the case will be dismissed with prejudice at the expiration of one year from the issuance of this order," he said.

Court records show that Rogopes was charged with sexual abuse of a minor in the second degree. The alleged crime occurred in April 2007. The AGO filed the case in October 2007.

Last July 28, the AGO filed a motion to dismiss without prejudice, citing that the victim has relocated out of the CNMI and hasn't set a return date.

The AGO cited that a witness has relocated out of the CNMI and doesn't plan to return, while another witness has relocated to Guam and doesn't plan to return.

Based upon the unavailability of key witnesses at the time of the trial, the government filed the motion to dismiss.

Rogopes, through counsel Robert Torres, opposed the motion to dismiss the case without prejudice based on considerations of the right to a speedy trial and the procedural posture of the case.

Torres asserted that defendant would prefer the court to either dismiss the case with prejudice or allow it to proceed to trial.

In granting the motion to dismiss, Wiseman said he finds that the reason given is made in good faith and is not contrary to public policy.

"A dismissal with prejudice is a very harsh sanction against the government and should only be used in situations that merit such approbation. This is not one of those situations," Wiseman said.

MARINE MONUMENT PUBLIC PRESENTATION SCHEDULE for the Week of September 15, 2008

Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
6:00pm	6:00pm	6:00pm
Concept Overview	Concept Overview	Economic Study

Presentations are open to the public and anyone interested in learning more is invited to attend.
No reservations required.

We are located at the JT Guerrero building in Garapan next to Asia Scooter Rentals.
This schedule will rotate weekly and presentations will be added.
Schedules will be noticed weekly on Tuesdays.
Private presentations are available upon request – please give us a call!
If you need more information please call us at 234-2665.

FAMILY CONNECTS
Share your cellular minutes with your family
Airtime Sharing
Unlimited Push-To-Talk
Unlimited Nights & Weekends
"My Family Connects"
Value Plans start at
$25/mo.
Up to 5 FREE phones per family!
Enjoy these benefits:
• More FREE local cellular minutes and SMS
• Roll over unused minutes to the next month
• Use your cell mins. to call the U.S. at no extra cost
• 5¢ per SMS & 25¢ per min for calls to the Phils.
• Widest Saipan, Rota, Tinian and Guam Coverage
• Largest PTT Family that you can connect with
iCONNECT
Embracing Saipan's Families
*To avail of "My Family Connects" Value Plans, current iConnect subscribers must transfer to a family plan of equal or higher value. Each additional member can choose between $25, $30, $35, $40, $45 & $50 plans up to 4 members per family plan. New subscribers must purchase a Primary Plan of $40 per month and each additional member can choose from the various family plans. FREE i415 phones for $25, $30 & $35 plans & FREE i425 phones for $40, $45 & $50 plans. 24 month contract required. Conditions apply.
Saipan - Guam Office: 888-8888 I www.iconnectsaipan.com

Health care upgrades save RHC thousands

By STEFAN SEBASTIAN
stefan_sebastian@saipantribune.com
BUSINESS EDITOR

ROTA—Key upgrades to the Rota Health Center here have brought major advances in medical technology to this small island and saved the center and its patients thousands each month in costs they otherwise would have spent seeking off-island treatment.

In a letter sent to RHC management earlier this year, medical director Dr. James Toskas says that since the upgrades—such as the addition of ultrasound equipment and a laboratory, a project spurred by the island's mayor, Joseph Inos—the health center has saved thousands each month. That money, he added in an interview Monday, is being poured into improving the care Rota's people receive in other ways.

"The planning here was for the future, not just now but 10, 15 years down the road," said Toskas.

Nine months ago, the laboratory where Toskas and his staff now conduct medical tests to diagnose and treat the island's sick was nonexistent. Many of Toskas' patients, he added, had to travel on their own to Guam or Saipan for even basic tests. The same held true for Rota's pregnant women and anyone in need of an ultrasound screening.

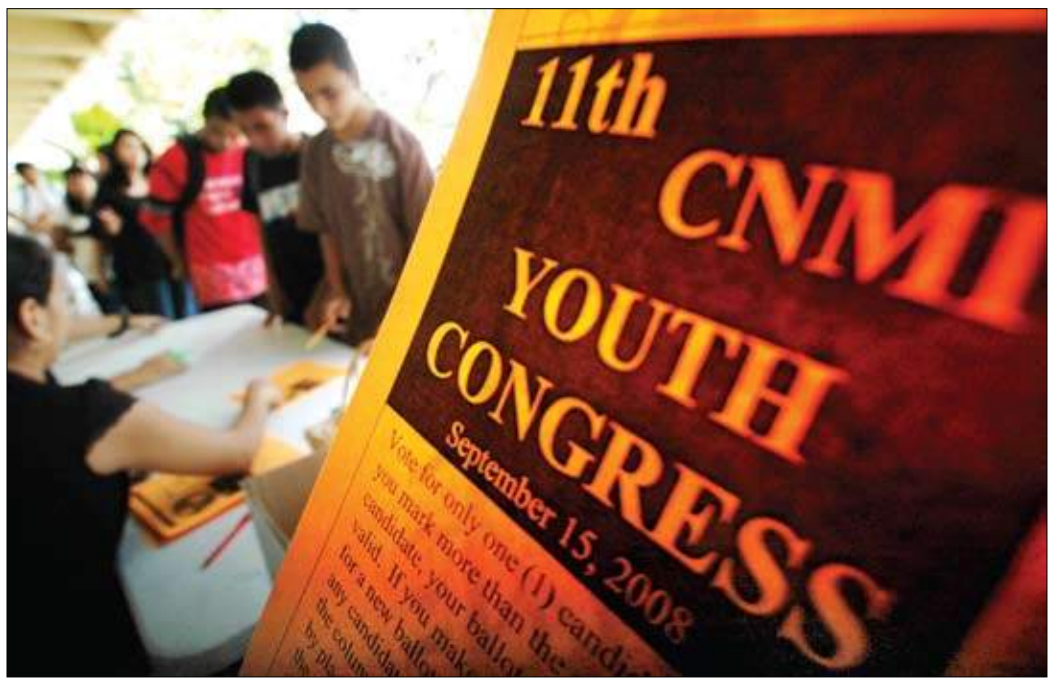
"Now we literally save the patients of Rota thousands of dollars a month by not having to send them off to Saipan for an ultrasound or lab work," Toskas said. "With all that we're saving, we can use the money to improve the health care of the community rather than to fly people around."

The new equipment has lengthened the list of options RHC staff have when treating emergency cases, Toskas added, noting that while the Coast Guard's emergency flights to Guam are paid for with federal money, airlifting patients when necessary to Saipan can cost up to $5,000.

"We can do almost anything here in terms of health care needs other than something like surgery, major surgery," he said. "We can do a lot more deliveries because we can see everything we need to see. We can do our laboratory tests. We can handle most cases."

Toskas credited Rota's mayor and RHC's Resident Director Julian Calvo for their efforts in bolstering the center's ability to provide medical care to the 65 patients on average its staff see each day.

Meanwhile, RHC has recently branched into providing home health care to patients on Rota with the aid of the local Department of Public Health, Toskas said. The new program provides Rota's homebound sick and elderly with house calls from the center free of charge.



YOUTH CONGRESS POLLS JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ
Marianas High School students cast their votes for the 11th CNMI Youth Congress election yesterday.

USA sued for alleged erroneous tax adjustments

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A Delaware limited liability company, through its CNMI managing member and tax matters partner Sunset Holdings LLC, has sued the United States of America for allegedly making erroneous tax adjustments and assessing penalties over the company's 2002 tax return.

Claston LLC, through Sunset Holdings LLC, asked the U.S. District Court for the NMI to issue a judgment declaring that the company properly reported its 2002 transactions.

The company, through lawyer Gregory J. Koebel, asked the court to determine that the adjustments, including penalties, made by U.S.A., are without basis in law and fact and are incorrect. It asked the court to rule that there are no additional taxes owed by the company or its partners.

Koebel stated in the complaint that the U.S., through its Maitland, Florida Office of the Internal Revenue Service, mailed to Hatteras Capital Management LLC, the former tax matters partner of Claston, a notice of final partnership administrative adjustments dated June 17, 2008.

Koebel said FPAA set forth various erroneous partnership administrative adjustments for Claston's taxable year ending Dec. 31, 2002.

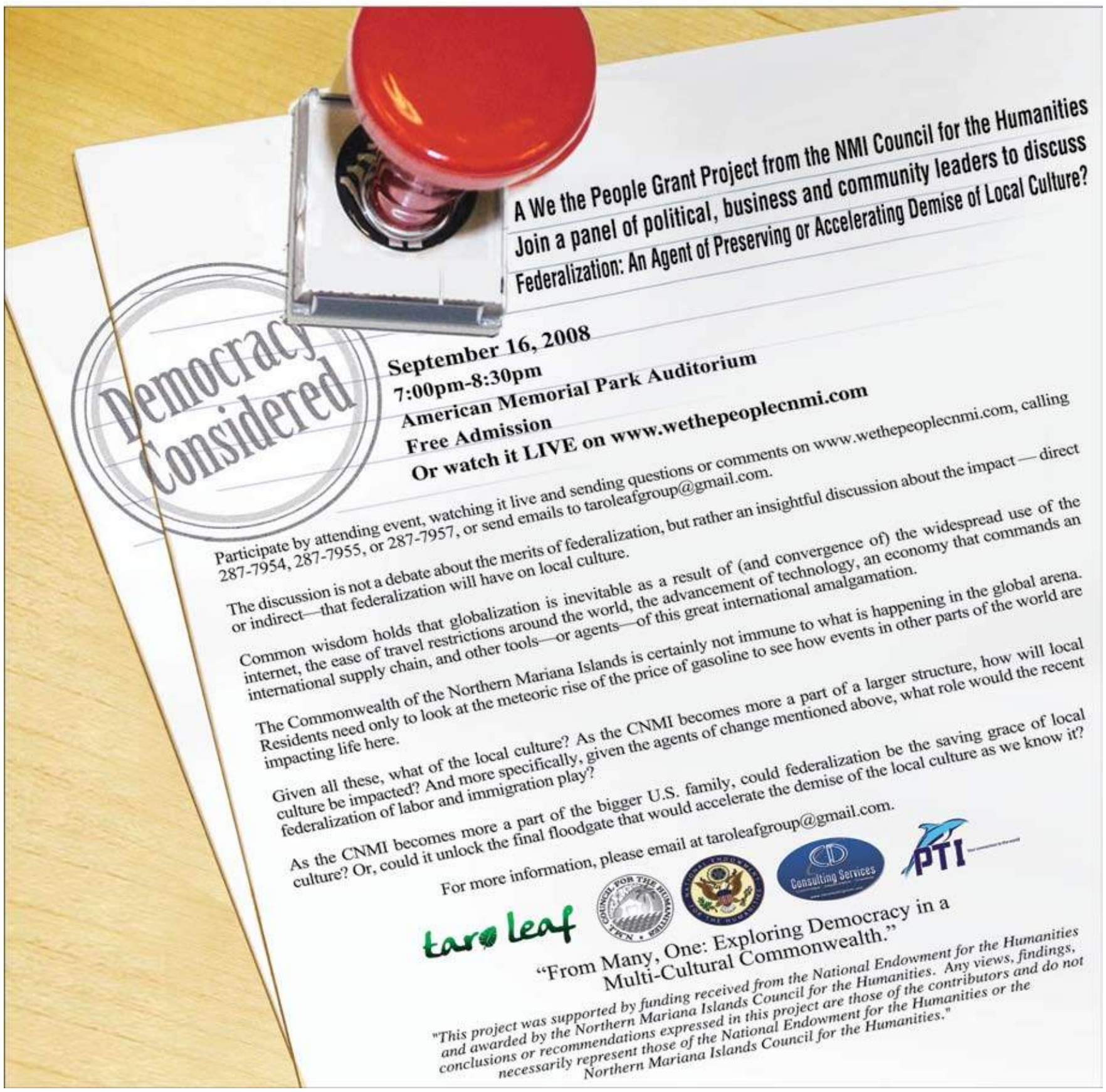
He said Claston contests each and every adjustment of the FPAA and the rationales behind each adjustments.

The lawyer said the IRS justified its adjustment and claims for penalties on a litany of alternative arguments, none of which have merit.

Essentially, he said, the IRS disallowed a claimed loss totaling $6,003,974 relating to distressed assets, asserting that the contributions of assets to the partnership should be treated as never having been made because the partnership's transactions allegedly lacked economic substance and had no bone fide business purpose.

Koebel said the IRS further claimed that the partnership was a sham, that the partnership was only formed to substantially reduce its partners' tax liabilities, and that all actions by the partnership should be treated as having been undertaken by the partners in their individual capacities.

"The rationale adopted by the IRS is baseless and the loss claimed by Claston must be validated," he asserted.


Democracy Considered
A We the People Grant Project from the NMI Council for the Humanities
Join a panel of political, business and community leaders to discuss
Federalization: An Agent of Preserving or Accelerating Demise of Local Culture?
September 16, 2008
7:00pm-8:30pm
American Memorial Park Auditorium
Free Admission
Or watch it LIVE on www.wethepeoplecnmi.com
Participate by attending event, watching it live and sending questions or comments on www.wethepeoplecnmi.com, calling 287-7954, 287-7955, or 287-7957, or send emails to taroleafgroup@gmail.com.
The discussion is not a debate about the merits of federalization, but rather an insightful discussion about the impact — direct or indirect—that federalization will have on local culture.
Common wisdom holds that globalization is inevitable as a result of (and convergence of) the widespread use of the internet, the ease of travel restrictions around the world, the advancement of technology, an economy that commands an international supply chain, and other tools—or agents—of this great international amalgamation.
The Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands is certainly not immune to what is happening in the global arena. Residents need only to look at the meteoric rise of the price of gasoline to see how events in other parts of the world are impacting life here.
Given all these, what of the local culture? As the CNMI becomes more a part of a larger structure, how will local culture be impacted? And more specifically, given the agents of change mentioned above, what role would the recent federalization of labor and immigration play?
As the CNMI becomes more a part of the bigger U.S. family, could federalization be the saving grace of local culture? Or, could it unlock the final floodgate that would accelerate the demise of the local culture as we know it?
For more information, please email at taroleafgroup@gmail.com.
taro leaf
Consulting Services
PTI
"From Many, One: Exploring Democracy in a Multi-Cultural Commonwealth."
"This project was supported by funding received from the National Endowment for the Humanities and awarded by the Northern Mariana Islands Council for the Humanities. Any views, findings, conclusions or recommendations expressed in this project are those of the contributors and do not necessarily represent those of the National Endowment for the Humanities or the Northern Mariana Islands Council for the Humanities."

Ex-convict gets 2 yrs for possessing 2 stolen guns

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

An ex-convict who was found in possession of two stolen guns was sentenced yesterday to two years in prison.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Alex R. Munson ordered Edward Lee Santos to spend 24 months in jail for one count of a felon in possession of firearms and one count of possession of stolen firearms.

Munson gave Santos credit for the time he has already served in jail.

After completing his prison term, Santos will be placed on three years of supervised release.

Munson required the defendant to perform 100 hours of community service during the probationary period and directed him to pay a $200 special assessment fee during his prison term.

Santos was also directed to participate in a substance abuse treatment program approved by the U.S. Probation Office, which may include testing to determine whether he has returned to using drugs.

After the hearing, the judge remanded the defendant into the custody of the U.S. Marshal.

Attorney Loren Sutton served as counsel for Santos. Assistant U.S. Attorney Beverly McCallum represented the U.S. government.

Santos entered a plea agreement with the U.S. government. He pleaded guilty to all counts in the indictment last May 14.

The defendant was found in possession of a .223 cal. Bushmaster rifle and .22LR cal. Ruger rifle on Aug. 27 to Sept. 4, 2007, knowing that the two firearms had been stolen from a residence on Saipan.

At the time the defendant had been convicted of a felony burglary in the Superior Court, according to the prosecution.

CHILD PASSENGER SAFETY WEEK

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial poses for a photo with acting DPS Commissioner Santiago F. Tudela and DPS officers shortly after signing the proclamation declaring Sept. 20 as Seat Check Saturday, and Sept. 21-27 as Child Passenger Safety Week at the Governor's conference room on Capital Hill yesterday. The activity is in line with the department's mission to promote proper use of child safety seats to reduce death and serious injury among children in the CNMI. JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Saipan to celebrate Dollar Wise Week on Sep. 21-27

Mayors across the country will celebrate Dollar Wise Week, from Sept. 21 to 24, 2008, to promote the Mayor's National Dollar Wise Campaign: Financial Education for America. The theme of this year's Dollar Wise Week is, "Savings for Kids and Families."

Saipan Mayor Juan B. Tudela emphasized the importance of this theme, saying, "Savings are an important building block of the foundation for the American Dream."

During Dollar Wise Week, Tudela and the people of the Municipality of Saipan's community coalition will work with local banks and other financial institutions to encourage families to help their children open savings accounts and learn from an early age the importance of saving money and making wise financial choices. "Unbanked" parents (those without bank accounts) will also be invited to begin saving money in an account.

Tudela

As Tudela stated: "Savings are essential to making many people's hopes and dreams possible—owning a home, educating our children, and having stable families."

To make the event more meaningful this year, the Office of the Mayor of Saipan will hold its Dollar Wise Symposium on Saturday, Oct. 4, 2008, 9am until 12pm, at the Sabalu Market area in Susupe.

The United States Conference of Mayor's Council for the New American City established the National Dollar Wise Campaign. Tudela and his fellow mayors recognize that financial illiteracy is a growing national problem that needs to be addressed and are working together through Dollar Wise to educate citizens on personal and household finances.

Tudela and the local community coalition are committed to providing a variety of personal finance seminars and events during Dollar Wise Week and throughout the year, with the goal of providing education aimed primarily at (homebuyers/homeowners, the unbanked community, students, the elderly, retirees, and/or immigrants).

In 2005, Americans' savings rates sank into the negative for the first time since the Great Depression. The 0.5 percent savings rate means that Americans spent all their disposable income and dipped into past savings or increased their borrowing. Recent studies reveal that for every $100 Americans bring home, they spend $100.20. In fact, the United States has the lowest personal savings rate of any major industrialized nation.

"The most current investors in American cities are families and individuals. There is no better time than now for Saipan residents to take advantage of programs and activities geared toward financial management and prosperity" said Tudela. "Improved financial literacy will result in a higher standard of living and more stable communities." ***(PR)***

Get fast Internet on your phone
No laptop needed
Use email, Surf the web, Instant Message, You Tube, Facebook, My Space...
EVERYTHING YOU NEED is in on your phone.
EV-DO
EV-DO
EV-DO
HTC 6800 Mogul
CDMA (Smart Phone)
$160.00*
Motorola Q
CDMA (Smart Phone)
$175.00*
Treo 700wx
CDMA (Smart Phone)
$279.00*
*Must sign up for Unlimited Data
3G TECHNOLOGY • 1ST IN MICRONESIA
PTI
Your connection to the world
Offer valid through September 27, 2008
Customer Care: 682-4PTI
www.pticom.com
wap.pticom.com
QUALITY CONNECTIONS
EXCEPTIONAL VALUE
TRUSTED NETWORK
*Some conditions apply • 300 min More Plan or up • 1 year agreement • Single Plans only • New Accounts only • While supplies last

SHRM hosts annual confab Thursday

The annual conference of the Society for Human Resource Management, CNMI Chapter is this week!

This "Professional Development Series" will help enhance participants' human resource knowledge and provide essential training on human resource matters.

Training topics will include: *Fundamentals of Human Resources, Effective Interviews, Strategic Leadership, S.W.O.T.* and *Conflict Resolutions*.

The keynote speakers, lawyers Maya Kara and Bruce Mailman, will be provide insights on *Federalization of Immigration in the CNMI: Issues and Challenges that Face Employers and Employees.*

"We invite you to join us for this informative and learning experience. This professional forum is the perfect setting to network with other HR professional as well as leading community business owners. You don't want to miss this conference," said CNMI Chapter president Frannie T. Salas in a statement.

The Annual Conference will be held at the SandCastle of the Hyatt Regency Saipan this Thursday, Sept. 18, 2008, from 8am to 4pm. Doors open at 8:15am for registration. Cost for members is $35 and $45 for non-SHRM members (government purchase orders accepted). Cost includes lunch, morning and afternoon refreshments and conference materials.

Reservations are requested. Individuals interested in attending this meeting should contact:

■ Denise Montenegro, Hyatt Regency HR department, at 323-5866;

■ Frannie T. Salas at e-mail francestsalas@gmail.com;

■ Polly Deleon Guerrero at e-mail pdlguerrero@mymarianas.com; and

■ Marlene Cruz at e-mail marleneccruz@hotmail.com

The Society for Human Resource Management is the world's largest association devoted to human resource management. The CNMI Chapter is composed of human resource professionals from a variety of industries, large and small, who recognize a need for a local society for professionals in the human resource field. The CNMI Chapter is affiliated with the national organization. ***(SHRM)***

Council accepting nominees for Humanities Awards

The Northern Mariana Islands Council for the Humanities is now accepting nominations for the 2008 Governor's Humanities Awards.

The awards program is an annual event, undertaken in conjunction with CNMI Humanities Month in October, to recognize outstanding contributions to the humanities by individuals, organizations, groups and institutions.

ON THE NET
www.nmihumanities.org

According to the council's acting executive director, Scott Russell, nominations may be submitted in one of five categories:

■ Research and Publication in the Humanities;

■ Preservation of Traditional Cultural Practices;

■ Outstanding Humanities Teacher (both classroom and non-classroom settings);

■ Preservation of CNMI History; and

■ Lifetime Achievement in the Humanities.

Russell said that the most prestigious award—Lifetime Achievement—will go to a nominee who has made significant contributions in the humanities over multiple decades. He stated that this award may be given posthumously.

In order to be considered, the council must receive nomination forms and accompanying supporting documentation no later than 4:30pm on Oct. 3, 2008.

Nomination forms are available at the council's office in the Reyes Building in Dandan or from its website at www.nmihumanities.org.

Russell said the awards will be presented during a dinner ceremony tentatively scheduled for the last week in October. ***(PR)***

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP08-GOV-095

Construction Management/Contract Compliance For Water Task Force Projects

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Timothy P. Villagomez, through the CNMI Water Task Force (WTF), are soliciting sealed Proposals from qualified Consultants to provide Construction Management/Contract Compliance Services for various WTF contracts and projects.

The proposal package will be available on or after **September 12, 2008** at the Office of the Director, Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan or by request faxed to (670) 664-1515.

All questions concerning this proposal shall be submitted in writing no later than **4:30 PM, September 22, 2008** to Pedro Sasamoto, WTF Program Manager (facsimile) number: (670)664-2279.

The proposal procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations. Preference is available to local proposers per Public Law 15-95 as further amended by Public Law 15-118. If preference is claimed, it must be claimed at the time of proposal submission.

Proposals must be sealed and marked **" RFP08-GOV-095 Construction Management/Contract Compliance."** One (1) original and four (4) copies must be submitted. For proposers within the CNMI, sealed proposals must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply, at Lower Base, Saipan, no later than **3:00 pm, September 26, 2008 (CNMI local time)**. Proposers located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their proposal by submitting **Notice of Intent to Propose**. Notices of Intent to Propose must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than **3:00 pm, September 26, 2008 (CNMI local time)** and may be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515 or e-mail procurement@pticom.com. For proposers located outside of the CNMI, the proposal must be postmarked by the USPO (or FedEx, DHL, etc.), or Official Post Office of a foreign country no later than **September 26, 2008**, and received no later than **October 7, 2008 (CNMI local time).**

The CNMI reserves the right to reject any and all proposals and to waive any imperfections in any proposal if to do so will be in the best interest of the CNMI. All proposals shall become the exclusive property of the CNMI government.

TIMOTHY P. VILLAGOMEZ
Lieutenant Governor

HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director of Procurement and Supply

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

USS *Rentz* visits Saipan today

The USS *Rentz*, a 453-foot guided missile frigate with approximately 215 officers and crew, will arrive this morning, Sept. 16. This will be the ship's first visit to Saipan. The Saipan Chamber of Commerce will be represented at the onboard arrival briefing.

"Please help us continue to build our reputation as the preferred rest-and-recreation destination in the Asia-Pacific by warmly welcoming these sailors," the Chamber said.

The *Rentz* is scheduled to depart Saturday morning. ***(SCC)***

MHS PTA meeting today

The Marianas High School's Community Council (PTA) will have a meeting today Sept. 16, 2008, 5:30pm, at the MHS cafeteria. All MHS parents/guardians and members of the community are encouraged to be present at this meeting. For questions and concerns contact 237-3206. ***(PR)***

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

September 16, 1999

Murkowski pushes for federal takeover
Saying local immigration control in the Northern Marianas remains inadequate, U.S. Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee Chairman Frank Murkowski (R-Alaska) yesterday pushed legislation seeking extension of federal immigration laws to the islands. While acknowledging the package of labor and immigration reforms put in place by Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio's administration, the senator believed these efforts still showed limitations in CNMI's ability to handle these functions.

SGMA appeal to Senate committee
Amid opposition to a planned federal takeover in the Northern Marianas, the Saipan Garment Manufacturers Association has asked the Senate Committee on Energy & Natural Resources to look closely at the consequences of any legislative solution it may consider imposing in the CNMI. Even with a graduated reduction in foreign workforce as proposed under SB 1052, the CNMI loses not only management but control over its immediate economic future.

Teno hopes for the best
Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio said yesterday the government will make its specific comments on the provisions of S.1052 after U.S. Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee Chairman Frank Murkowski asked them to do so during a hearing held in Washington D.C. He expressed relief, however, that Murkowski "is very sympathetic" to the conditions on the island and has acknowledged his administration's efforts to reform local labor and immigration.

September 16, 2002

NMC starts ball rolling to attract int'l students
Officials of the Northern Marianas College are set to meet this week with the Senate leadership, during which NMC president PhD. Kenneth Wright will present his proposal to make the college a springboard for Asian students who want to study in American colleges. The meeting is expected to result in the drafting of the necessary legislation that would provide the enabling mechanism for the project.

American Red Cross launches Club 200
The American Red Cross formally launched Friday its 15th anniversary's month-long Club 200 Carnivale fundraising event with no less than Gov. Juan N. Babauta and Lt. Governor Diego T. Benavente buying the first two raffle tickets during the ceremony. The event, according to organizers, will be held for three days from Oct. 11 to 13 at the American Memorial Park.

Babauta hoped to get courtesy on Lemons' resignation
Gov. Juan N. Babauta says he thought he would get "a little courtesy" from the Attorney General's Office on the reported resignation of Chief Prosecutor Clyde Lemons Jr. In an interview, Babauta said he has not been officially notified by the AGO on the matter. "It's a surprise to me," he told reporters on Friday. Babauta said, though, that Lemons was not required to inform him directly about his decision, but he said, " I'd think that perhaps a little courtesy would come."

September 16, 2003

Massive coral deaths on Anatahan
The volcanic eruption on Anatahan not only buried the island in ash and killed its vegetation but it also caused heavy sedimentation on the waters surrounding the island, resulting in massive coral deaths that have disturbed marine life. Federal and local scientists fear that the impact of ash sedimentation on Anatahan's waters and its coral reefs would continue for many years.

Educ materials now exempt from tax
Books, computers and assistive devices are now exempt from the 0.42 percent ad valorem tax levied on consumer goods, with the passage yesterday of a new law that excludes educational materials from this additional tax burden. Public information officer Peter A. Callaghan confirmed that acting Gov. Diego T. Benavente signed House Bill 13-284 into law yesterday-the deadline for executive action on the bill.

NMC ABE instructors undergo orientation

To help prepare its adult educators for the Fall 2008 semester, the Northern Marianas College's Adult Basic Education Program recently conducted a training orientation designed to promote the effectiveness of classroom instructors.

The orientation, held on Aug. 22, 2008, at the Palms Resort Hotel, began with a presentation by ABE state director Lorraine T. Cabrera, who updated returning adjunct instructors of the requirements and expectations of ABE classes and assessment.

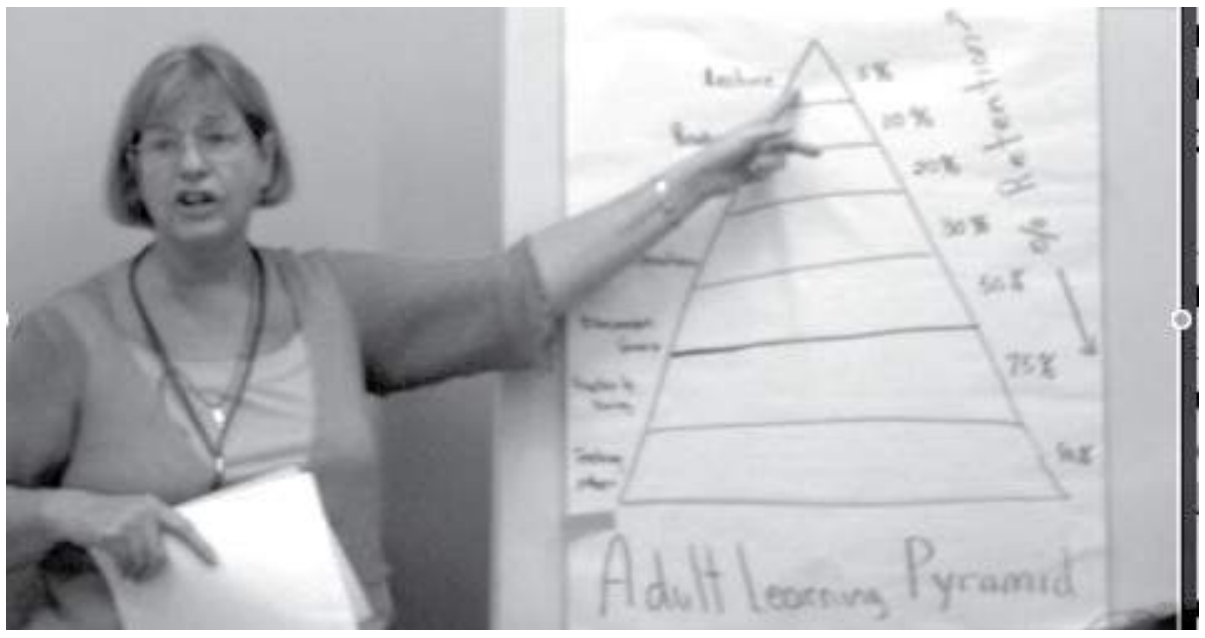
Pamela Buckingham and Barbara Merfalen, NMC instructors, were then invited to present on the topic, "How to Teach Adult Learners." They shared their own experiences, knowledge and insights about teaching adult learners. Buckingham and Merfalen also incorporated learning activities that participants demonstrated to share teaching techniques and strategies that research and studies have found to be most effective with adult learners.

In attendance were NMC president Dr. Carmen Fernandez, COMPASS dean Tee Abraham, ABE PC/instructor Elsie Cabrera, ABE PC/counselor Velma Mafnas, and ABE administrative manager Lenny Morales.

ABE adjunct faculty included Jesus Taisague, Mercedes Deleon Guerrero, Mark Haag, Barry Wicksman, Lek Algaeir, Thomas Colton, Dominick Palestino, Candida Bahillo, Doris Chong, Monica Pangelinan, Dean Reedstrum, Thomas Tebuteb, Arnold Dision, Gonzalo Santos, and Maria H. Aguon. ABE workstudy students included Livia Pangelinan and Anna Deleon Guerrero.

The staff and adjunct instructor training was made possible by a grant from the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Vocational and Adult Education.

For more information about the ABE Program, log on to www.nmcnet.edu or contact the ABE office at 234-5498 Ext 1723 or 1724. ***(NMC)***



Northern Marianas College School of Education instructor Pamela Buckingham gestures during her presentation at the ABE orientation designed for adult educators.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

NMC offers customer service and administrative training courses

The Northern Marianas College, through the Division of Community Programs and Services and the Community Development Institute, is offering short-term classes to interested individuals who wish to improve their customer service and administrative skills.

This is in line with the college's mission, which includes providing continuing education and professional development opportunities in response to community needs.

These short-term classes include Basic Customer Service Skills, Etiquette in the Workplace, Workplace Communication, Time Management, and Stress Management.

The schedule and fees for these short-term classes that will be offered at Northern Marianas College are as follows:

- **BASIC CUSTOMER SERVICE SKILLS**
  Sept. 15-19, 2008 (5pm-7pm)
  Fee: $95
- **TIME MANAGEMENT**
  Sept. 22 & 24, 2008 (5pm-7-pm)
  Fee: $40
- **WORK ETIQUETTE TRAINING**
  Sept. 23 & 25, 2008 (5pm-7-pm)
  Fee: $40
- **COMMUNICATION IN THE WORKPLACE**
  Sept. 29-October 4, 2008 (5pm-6:30pm M-F, 9am-11:30am Sat.)
  Fee: $95
- **STRESS MANAGEMENT**
  Sept. 6-11, 2008 (5pm-6:30pm M-F, 9am-11:30am Sat.)
  Fee: $95

Continuing Education Credits and certificates will be awarded to all registered participants who meet all course requirements. Full payment is required for admission to a class. To register or for information about these classes, visit the CDI Office in Building P on the NMC Campus in As Terlaje or call 234-5498 extension 1005 or e-mail davida@nmcnet.edu. ***(NMC)***

COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
P.O. Box 502149, Saipan MP 96950
Tel: (670) 234-6245/6293/7145/7146 • Fax: (670) 234-7144 or 235-7147
Email: administration@cda.gov.mp • Website: www.cda.gov.mp

PUBLIC NOTICE

SEPTEMBER 16, 2008

PURSUANT TO PUBLIC LAW 8-41, THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (CDA) THRU ITS ACTING CHAIRMAN HEREBY INFORMS THE GENERAL PUBLIC THAT THE CDA BOARD OF DIRECTORS WILL HOLD A REGULAR MEETING ON THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2008 AT 1:00 P.M. THE MEETING WILL BE HELD AT THE CDA CONFERENCE ROOM, SECOND FLOOR, WAKIN'S BUILDING, CHALAN PALE ARNOLD ROAD, SAIPAN. THE AGENDA FOR THIS MEETING IS AS FOLLOWS:

AGENDA

I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS
1. Roll Call
2. Adoption of Agenda
3. Adoption of Minutes
   a. July 29, 2008
   b. August 1, 2008

II. PUBLIC COMMENTS

III. REPORTS
1. Financial Report – CDA

IV. DIVISIONS/COMMITTEES
1. Development Corporation Division
   a. Status of Pending Items
2. DBD/Public Finance Committee
   a. Status of the DBD Funds
3. Admin. Matters/Personnel & Budget
   a. Administration's Report
4. QC Program/Economic Dev. Activities
   a. Ratification of Board Res. 2008-002
   b. Compliance Issues

V. OLD BUSINESS
1. Pacific Gardenia Hotel – Update
2. Sunset Villa – Update
3. CUC

VI. NEW BUSINESS
1. Alternative Energy

VII. OTHER MATTERS
1. Annual Pacific Region Investment Conference
2. IEDC Annual Conference – The Next Billion: Mobility, Flexibility, Agility, Livability

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

(Note: Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 12(a)(7) and Section 13(c), the Board may vote to meet in executive session.)

/s/ PEDRO I. ITIBUS
Acting Chairman, CDA Board of Directors

MARIANAS PUBLIC LAND TRUST
BOARD OF TRUSTEES

NOTICE OF REGULAR MEETING

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 11, The Open Government Act of 1992, the Marianas Public Land Trust have scheduled a Board of Trustees Regular Meeting to be held on **Friday, September 19, 2008 beginning at 6:00 PM and Saturday, September 20, 2008 beginning at 10:00 a.m. on the 1st Floor of the Morgen Building, Suite #107; Saipan, MP.**

The following agenda is hereby established:

I PRELIMINARIES
- Call to Order
- Roll Call
- Adoption of Agenda
- Adoption of Minutes

II CONSULTANT REPORTS
- Investment Consultant Reports
  - Flash Reports – July/August 2008
  - Total Fund & Manager Universe Performance Comparisons
  - Consulting Group Review
  - Investment Related Fees – Updated
  - IPS Revisions
  - Investment Manager Review Schedules
- Loan Administrator Reports
  - Status Update – Home Loan Program
- Board Consultant Reports
  - Financial Statements – June/July 2008
  - FY 2008 Reprogramming Review and Adoption
  - FY 2009 Budget Review and Adoption
- Legal Counsel Reports*
  - Status Update – Home Loan Foreclosures
  - APLE 501

III CHAIRMAN'S REPORT
- Office Space Matters
- Administrative Issues

IV OLD BUSINESS
- Tinian Public Market
- By-laws Review and Amendment

V NEW BUSINESS
- Employment/Independent Contracts
- FY 2009-2010 Independent Audit RFP
- IFEBP: International & Emerging Markets
- APAFS: 8th Annual Pacific Region Investment Conference
- Website Review and Selection
- HLI 16-18

VI EXECUTIVE SESSION
At anytime during this scheduled meeting, the Board of Trustees may be required to enter into Executive Session to discuss matters deemed privileged and confidential.

VII MISCELLANEOUS

VIII ADJOURNMENT

* It is anticipated that the following matters will be discussed under Executive Session in its entirety.

In accordance with Public Law 8-41, additional agenda items may be added to the above listing only by the recorded vote of the majority of the trustee governing body. All interested persons are welcome to attend and to submit written and oral testimony on the above agenda items.

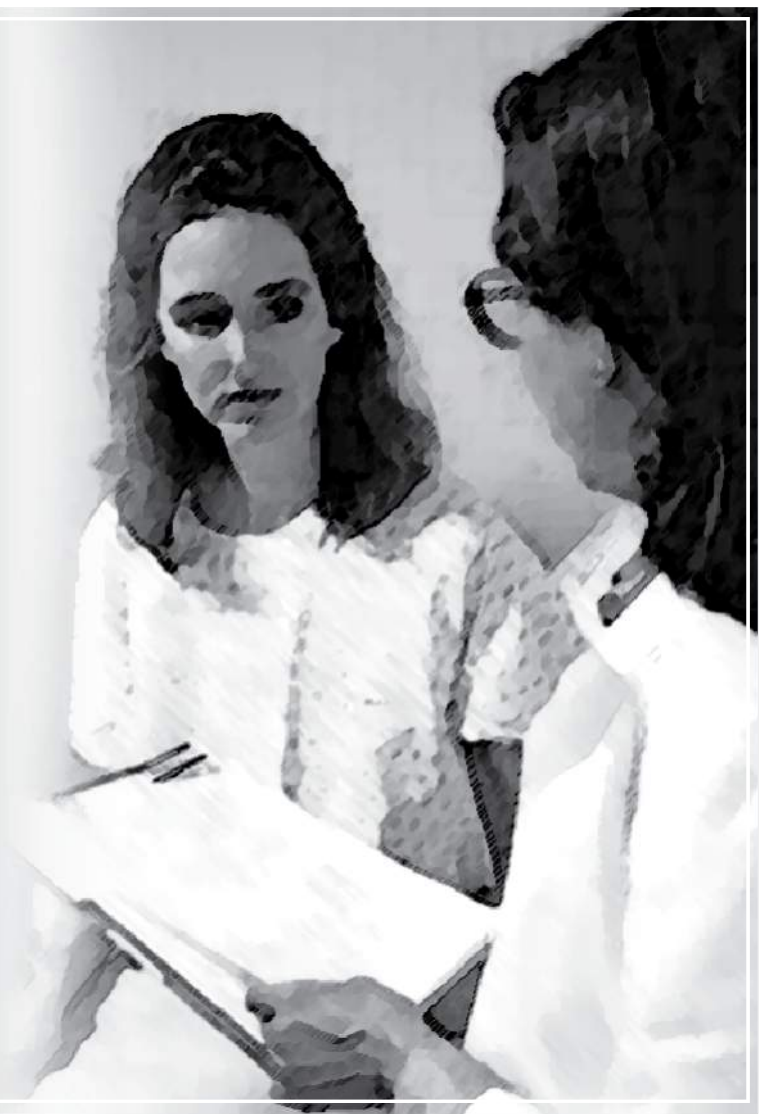
/s/ Alvaro A. Santos
Chairman, Board of Trustees

The American Cancer Society (ACS) recommends that ladies over 20 years old should start getting Clinical Breast Exams (CBE).

Early detection is your best protection!

CNMI Breast & Cervical Screening Program (BCSP)
236-8727/37
cnmibcsp@pticom.com

This ad was brought to you by the Department of Public Health's Breast and Cervical Screening Program with 100% funding from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)



Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XVIII, Issue No. 260

Published daily at 2/F CIC Centre,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950

Lynn A. Knight PUBLISHER
Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
Mark Rabago ASSISTANT EDITOR

MEMBER
The Associated Press
Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Palin's interview: A need for more exposure

Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin does not bring to the vice presidential campaign, to use her words, "a big fat resume." Her scanty public record makes interviews such as the one she gave to ABC's Charles Gibson especially important. Having answered her first real questions since being selected, Ms. Palin must not now retreat into the campaign bubble or make herself available only to friendly interlocutors. Along with the vice presidential debate and campaign trail encounters with voters, such interviews are essential to giving the country a fuller picture of the least known vice presidential nominee in recent memory. What is the quality of Ms. Palin's mind? How deeply has she thought about fundamental issues of domestic or foreign policy? She has been briefed, but can she go beyond her talking points?

Ms. Palin's interview with Mr. Gibson was not disqualifying, but it was also far from comforting. For all the focus on her supposed befuddlement about the Bush doctrine, the question was imprecise and Ms. Palin's initial puzzlement understandable. Her eventual response—that any president has the right to respond preemptively in the face of an imminent threat—restated an undeniable proposition while reflecting little appreciation of real-world complexities, in Pakistan or elsewhere. Asked about the prospect of an Israeli attack on Iranian nuclear facilities, Ms. Palin said three times that the United States should not "second-guess" Israeli decisions on self-defense. But of course the United States should, and does, engage in that sort of second-guessing, from the location of settlements to sales of military equipment. If Israel wanted to attack Iran, would a President Palin permit Israeli forces to fly through U.S.-controlled airspace?

Even on the domestic issues about which she could have been expected to have more familiarity, Ms. Palin's responses were disappointingly shallow. Defending her state's—and her own—record on earmarks, Ms. Palin suggested that the problem was not shoveling money toward pet projects but the failure to make this shoveling transparent—seemingly not recognizing that this is far different from the more fundamental complaint of her running mate, John McCain. The "Bridge to Nowhere," after all, was no secret. Ms. Palin came off as naive in assessing federal budget problems and entitlement spending as simply a matter of scrubbing "divisions" for waste.

Her efforts to explain some previous statements were lacking in candor. She claimed, implausibly, that she was merely channeling Abraham Lincoln when she described the war in Iraq as "a task from God," and she denied any turnabout on climate change despite having said, in 2007, "I'm not an Al Gore, doom-and-gloom environmentalist blaming the changes in our climate on human activity." She described abortion as "a very critical and very sensitive and a personal issue also for so many women" yet repeated her view that abortion should be illegal except when needed to save the life of the mother. How does Ms. Palin reconcile her understanding of abortion as a "personal issue" with her view that the choice should be taken away from the pregnant woman?

Overall, this was an unsettling interview, with a frustrating lack of follow-up questions. Voters deserve more opportunities for more searching questioning in the short time left before Election Day.

(c) 2008, The Washington Post

Copy tax

Light or dark

Everyone who lives here has been impacted by the power outages of the last few months. Let's face it, though: it was an inconvenience, not a life-threatening situation. I was frustrated, you were frustrated, they were frustrated, we all wished we had 24/7 power. Life hasn't been as convenient as it could have been, but no one was in danger, no one lost their life, no one's house was washed out to sea.

I have noticed that those who wailed the loudest for "something to be done" continue to wail once something has actually been done. Apparently, the something was not what the wailers would have done, so like children who didn't get it their own way, they continue the tantrum. A temporary solution was decided on by bringing new rental power generators to the island to restore full power while repairs are made to the main engines. This sounds like a reasonable solution to any reasonable person who wants to see the power turned back on 24/7, but the griping continues, and even increases. I would pose the question: Would you rather sit in the dark and bitch or would you rather have the power on while you find fault with the solution?

If all you are trying to do is discredit the current managers so you can try to become the executive decision maker yourself, then I suppose you would prefer that the rental generators not be here so you could gripe in the dark…it makes a better case for you. If you really want what you say you want, the power back on and a plan to keep it that way, then you should be happy to be sitting in that air-conditioned room googling on your electric computer. Power outages are bad for business but so is never ending public media dissension. That keeps public confidence down and that keeps discretionary spending down and that keeps investors away and existing businesses from growing.

I might recommend that if you don't like the decisions made by CUC managers that you either go get an electrical engineering degree and spend a few years working in the power generation field or that you back a process that aims to hire an already trained power plant manager. The other (and better) option is to sell, or give, or pay someone to take the current power plant off the government's hands who will then run it privately. A co-op of local ratepayers could own it, or a private company could own it, or a public stock company could own it. Either way, for someone who benefits from making it run efficiently, owning it is the best long term solution to reliable power. Getting another government to run it is just a recipe for more failure.

Meanwhile, I for one am pretty darned happy to have the freezer on and the little LED lights on my computer winking merrily away as I sit here bathed in a blaze of fluorescent splendor. Now show me the long term plan and the means to achieve it and I am a happy camper…an electric camper.

■■■

Sour Grapes

By BRUCE BATEMAN
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Bruce A. Bateman writes Sour Grapes when the moon is full and the mood strikes. Stay tuned for each exciting episode. "Yes, he is opinionated." Email: bbateman@pticom.com; Blog: http://saipanuvian.blogspot.com/

Don't vote—for the same thing

Our elected Washing Rep is still in office though he is running for another office and the Constitution says he should resign. He is once again of a different mind than the also elected governor of the Commonwealth and is, once again, presenting a different message to Washington than the administration. That rift causes confusion and lessens the likelihood that either message will be taken seriously.

Until we elect and send a non-voting delegate to the U.S. House, we will continue to rely on a very expensive but often not very effective lobbyist, namely the Washington Representative. The problem over the last couple of years after the current Rep changed his position and decided to bow down to the new power elite in Washington to gain his ends is that his position was at loggerheads with the Commonwealth's elected leader, the governor. That difference of opinion cost us dearly, in terms of presenting a non-united front to the U.S. government. It also cost us dearly in that it necessitated the hiring of expensive lobbyists to do the work that could have been done by our already extremely expensive WashRep lobbyist ($1.3 million a year). In the future, let's hope that the newly elected NVD not-votes for the same things that the governor wants to not-vote for, whatever that is. If both are on the same page it will save a lot of grief and a lot of money. We might even make some progress if both are asking for the same thing.

At least we won't be paying for it anymore, whichever way it works out; mainland taxpayers will foot the bill for the NVD as they do with real honest-to-goodness voting congressmen.

■■■

Charge a fee tax?

The fees charged for all government offerings should be set at a level that pays for the service or regulatory requirement. Charging

See COPY on Next Page

EDITORIAL POLICY The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, CIC Centre, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Letters to the Editor

CNMI immigration system is harmful to children

I want you to imagine that you are a doctor who takes care of children at the Commonwealth Health Center, and I want you to imagine that you just discovered a young child with leukemia. If you can imagine that, you may understand why it is so offensive to me that Governor Fitial just decided to challenge the federal government on their planned takeover of immigration in Saipan.

Let me connect the dots, because the connection may not be obvious. You see, about half the children in the CNMI are born to contract workers. They grow up in barracks, they ride in the back of pickup trucks like baggage, they are thin with the meager diet that their parents can afford. However, they are U.S. citizens because they were born on United States soil. Even the children of illegal aliens are United States citizens by birth, certainly the children of legal contract workers have the same privilege. They have the same passport and same homeland that my children have, and they deserve a chance to make something with their lives.

The trouble is, the CNMI is a poor Commonwealth, and the care of a child with cancer is very expensive. There will continue to be children with cancer, because cancer happens, and in my memory of working at CHC we found cancer in a child at least once every six months—usually leukemia. I think that CHC tries to be fair, and tries to treat contract worker kids as well as the kids of Pacific Islanders, although I did find that contract worker kids were much less likely to have Medicaid and had more difficulty getting it than Pacific Islander kids. However, Medicaid in the CNMI has limited funds. Kids with cancer are very expensive. If a kid with cancer is born to poor Chamorro or Carolinian parents, they can move to Hawaii or California and say that they intend to stay and get Medicaid from that state or any of the other states in the United States. Contract workers have no such options, because they have no legal status in the United States. Their kids can't move to California by themselves; their parents are aliens with no status there.

Now today, Governor Fitial announced that he would fight the federal government about the takeover of immigration. Fitial wants to keep the permanent underclass with cheap labor for the argument that cheap labor helps the economy of the CNMI. He thinks that it is harmful for business for the United States federal government to apply the same standards in the CNMI that is applied everywhere else. Governor Fitial wants to perpetuate the same system that creates a permanent underclass, and that makes for the sort of inequities that cost human lives, like maybe the next contract worker kid with cancer.

Most people in the CNMI are Christians. What do you suppose Jesus Christ would think about fighting to keep a system that creates a permanent underclass and that potentially costs children their lives? The argument to keep the cheap labor force is that it is necessary for the prosperity of the CNMI. What prosperity has it really brought? And to whom? And at what cost?

Those of you in the CNMI with any power must understand that this is a moral choice, and that defending the current system is a moral outrage. It is time that the CNMI stop selling the illusion of bringing workers to the United States under a parallel immigration system that often exploits workers, leads to human trafficking, and causes untold harm to families.

Governor Fitial, I want you to imagine looking into the eyes of a young Chinese or Filipino child with leukemia, a child who is a United States citizen, and having to tell their family that because the parents are not United States citizens that they do not have the option of getting good care for their kid. Imagine this, and then ask yourself whether your pursuit of a cheap labor force is really worth it.

Joseph Livingston, MD
(Former pediatrician, CHC)
Albuquerque, NM

CUC: Humanitarian disaster?

Nonsense. The words, sown by a desperate few, are meant to harm and deceive rather than to assist. You want real "humanitarian disaster"?

That's *after* the two recent Condition-4 hurricanes tore across the Atlantic Ocean and ravaged island nations; after killer winds uprooted trees and tossed homes; after giant 20-foot storm surges forced people to flee to the hills or die. And after Hurricane Ike slammed into Texas, over 3 million sufferers are without power—which will take more months to fix than our complainers could ever understand—and lead to disease and famine and pestilence and robberies and burglaries and murders.

Humanitarian disaster is what occurred in a series of fierce earthquakes in China, burying twenties of thousands of its helpless citizens, destroying and flooding swathes of farmland leading to starvation, accounting for heartaches in the millions, while recovery efforts continue to this day with no end in sight. Displaced millions? Destruction of humanities? A complete collapse of medical and emergency facilities? A repair bill for loss of life or property that run in the billions of dollars after months of salvaging, if not years?

Oh, please, have our very own disgruntles tell them all about Saipan's "humanitarian disaster."

And here's much more: humanitarian disaster is the squalor a clutch of homeless Chuukese islanders, who barely survive by panhandling for food and drink on the beach behind Aquarius Hotel in Chalan Kanoa, hanging on to life in an abandoned concrete hovel abutting south of its parking lot. And the jury is still out on what misery will come from the violent magnitude-8 earthquakes now occurring in countries along the Ring of Fire in the Pacific, rattling the likes of Japan and Indonesia with tremors felt in—the Marianas. Cracks in the earth? Tsunamis sinking the islands? FEMA, the Stafford Act and "please-President Bush"?

With enough negativism, our very own doomsday-believers just might get their wish for "humanitarian disaster" right here in the Commonwealth.

What the voices of the candle-holders on this island are moaning about—they who have been spoiled, living "easy" under the American flag, taking and expecting more while giving less in return, and failing to comprehend the realities of life—while blaming this administration--is not "humanitarian disaster."

What they're complaining about is called discomfort.

I, too, have lost sleep, meat and a refrigerator, cursed, groaned and sweated, but sucked it up because I am confident Governor Fitial has both feet on the ground and giving his all. And given the spare resources he has to work with, the governor is also on the correct track toward a CUC solution—only one of a multitude of other burdens inherited from previous administrations. Certainly, those he chose to perform vital tasks in our community's time of despair, and who failed him and us, we're more than aware of. But whatever your politics are, corruption and dysfunction in CUC is one thing; trying to tack a course through lawmakers bent solely on vote-getting or assuaging the doomsday writers desperately in want of attention, is another. What the governor is doing is called order-of-importance. In the case of CUC, the nut is to get fulltime power back on, *first.* That's called priority one. Then step up his attack on other critical problems.

Rising power rates? Wake up. Every single purchase and service in your lifetime has increased significantly. It's called supply and demand—so live with it.

This is a fact: Those pretenders, who will never fully comprehend the depth of CUC's problems, make-believe they know how to solve it. Those dissidents, angry at their own impotence, are vindictive in finding fault by expressing their own bitterness through their stinging letters to the editor. Why? Pointedly, they don't know about something called *business*—or what it takes to survive in business. And of that vitriolic bunch, I only count one who has the courage to try working for himself in his own company. And the others? They hustle for someone else or are "employed" by the "local" government. Running the CNMI is like running a giant corporation with all its warts. So, I direct this question to those grumblers who, having never experienced the fear of bellying up in their own business, feel smug about getting a steady paycheck while working for others: How qualified are you in telling this governor how to run the CNMI?

To all of those cheese balls who know not business and what it takes to survive in it; who know not what methods and means Governor Fitial is employing to keep this community afloat, I say to them: after the Aggreko engines are hooked up and the bugs shaken loose and we have continuous and reliable power 24/7, what else could possibly keep you up at night?

Lee Andersen
Chalan Kanoa, Saipan

COPY

From Page 10

more in order to later "reprogram" those monies into the CUC coffers for fuel subsidies, or to buy more equipment for some other department is taxation plain and simple. Come on Legislature, if you want to raise taxes, have the gumption to come out and say "we are broke, so in future we will be taking a bigger tax bite from you personally and from all the companies you do business with." That would be the honest way to approach this shortfall.

The one I agree with most is the marriage license fee increase. It should be pegged at $5,000 and a rider fee of $100,000 should be required for each new child born (a birth license fee) to make up for the cost of government services the kid will surely use over his lifetime. Kidding here…that could be just a bit much and entirely too fair for a government to consider. Getting re-elected after passing that one would prove pretty difficult. Divorce lawyers are not likely to be happy about the $5K marriage certificate either as it would cut into business. Paternity attorneys would be happy as clams though.

■■■

Quote of the week: A cynic is not merely one who reads bitter lessons from the past, he is one who is prematurely disappointed in the future.

—Sidney J. Harris (1917 – 1986)

The editorial forum for delegates

The results of the public forum for the candidates in this newspaper's Opinion section will be published starting Monday, Sept. 22, along with the second question for the candidates. **No** responses to the first question will be accepted after the 19th to prevent any candidates from seeing what the others have to say before replying. The delegates should not be discouraged for any reason and to disregard the cheerleaders of your opposition. You shouldn't let anyone prevent you from writing, which could sabotage your selection and this important event for the people. This forum also has the potential to change the politics of the CNMI forever. It is vital that all candidates meet the deadline, Sept. 19, and to limit their answers to 1,000 words with no vetting of their opposition. The people are watching and waiting to hear what every candidate has to say, so bring your "A" game, gentlemen.

I was so glad to see people even in Lakewood, Washington, appreciate what I'm trying to do and understand the mastery in what I have done for the people—thanks for the compliment and encouragement. We are electing our *first* major league player *(national representative to government)* and this is no time for politics as usual. Our delegate had better be our very best with no doubt and hopefully people now understand why I'm putting them to a real test, requiring them to stand on their own merits. Thank you gentlemen for cooperating on behalf of the voting public and we look forward to reading your responses.

Ambrose M. Bennett
Kagman III, Saipan

Congressional delegate forum

Dear congressional delegates and the Kagman public:

The Kagman Komunidat Association is sponsoring a public forum for the congressional delegates on Saturday, Sept. 20, from 6pm to 9pm at the Kagman Community Center. This is a rare opportunity for the public to get to know the candidates.

The public is highly encouraged to attend this form, as the questions will come from the audience. The seating arrangement is limited so it will be on a first come, first serve basis. We encourage voters to attend and ask questions. The forum will be fair and impartial and the selection of our delegate is too important for voters to make a "secondhand" decision—please come and find out for yourself!

We want to thank the candidates for participating. The Kagman Komunidat Association is looking forward to seeing the candidates and the public at the forum.

Kagman Komunidat Association Officers:
Jesse Torres, President
Martha Sablan, Vice President
Daniel Huh, Treasurer
Retta Hamilton, Secretary
Ambrose M. Bennett, P I O

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms. Light and variable winds.	Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms. Light and variable winds.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲86° ▼77°	▲86° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲88° ▼77°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	▲85	▼76
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼78
Yap	Thunderstorms	▲87	▼77
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲88	▼77
Pohnpei	Mostly Cloudy	▲87	▼72
Kosrae	Cloudy	▲87	▼76
Majuro	Thunderstorms	▲84	▼75

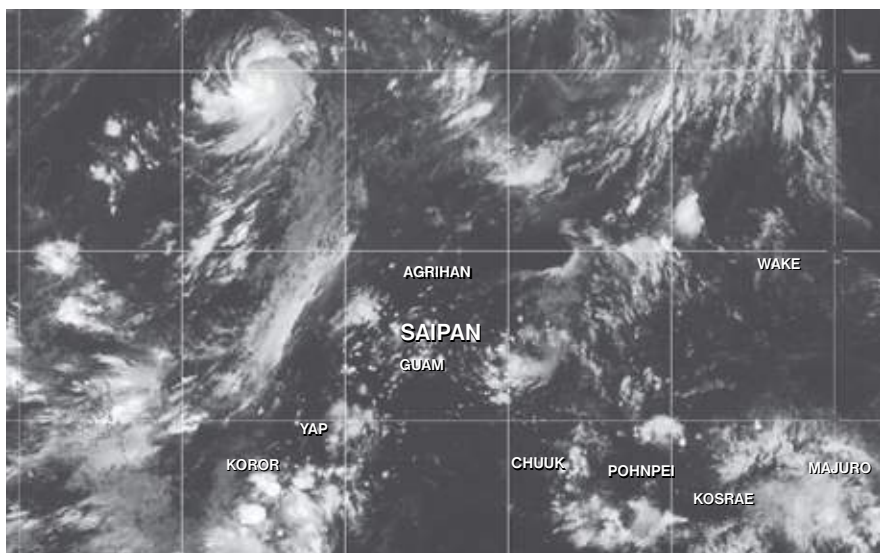
Around The Globe

Auckland	Partly Sunny	▲65	▼53
Beijing	Partly Sunny	▲86	▼62
Hong Kong	Thundershowers	▲92	▼80
Honolulu	Showers	▲85	▼76
London	Cloudy	▲63	▼47
Los Angeles	Mostly Sunny	▲86	▼64
Manila	Thunderstorms	▲84	▼77
Melbourne	Showers	▲55	▼44
Miami	Cloudy	▲90	▼77
New York	Partly Sunny	▲73	▼59
Osaka	Thundershowers	▲84	▼68
Paris	Mostly Sunny	▲62	▼49
Pusan	Mostly Sunny	▲85	▼69
Rome	Partly Sunny	▲73	▼53
Salem	Mostly Sunny	▲90	▼49
San Francisco	Partly Sunny	▲70	▼56
Seoul	Mostly Sunny	▲84	▼63
Tokyo	Showers	▲79	▼68
Washington, DC	Cloudy	▲74	▼59

Tides

Saipan Harbor		
2:07AM Today	Low Tide:	0.5 Feet
7:54AM Today	High Tide:	2.0 Feet
2:19PM Today	Low Tide:	0.3 Feet
8:18PM Today	High Tide:	2.0 Feet

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2008
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A surface low centered west of Koror at 7N133E is triggering scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms between 6N and 3N from 130E to 132E. Convergence east of the low is causing similar conditions southeast of Yap within 70 miles of a line from 6N143E to EQ140E. A surface trough extends northward from 10N145E through a weak surface circulation at 17N147E to end at 25N146E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are found north and east of the Marianas bounded by a line from 19N145E to 16N150E to 13N148E to 11N143E back to 19N145E as well as within 23N and 21N from 149E to 147E. An upper-level low centered west of Wake Island at 21N158E is allowing for scattered showers to develop west of the island within 60 miles of a line from 16N157E to 18N163E. An upper-level trough extends from 15N132E to an upper-level low centered at 20N139E. Widely scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are occurring near the trough axis within 120 miles of a line from 20N142E to 15N138E to 13N130E. A surface trough near the Marshall Islands is causing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms between 9N and 7N from 170E to 173E.

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:06AM	6:18 PM
Wednesday	6:06AM	6:17 PM
Thursday	6:06AM	6:16 PM
Friday	6:06AM	6:16 PM
Saturday	6:06AM	6:15 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	6:46PM	6:31AM
Wednesday	7:27PM	7:26AM
Thursday	8:12PM	8:23AM
Friday	9:02PM	9:24AM
Saturday	9:57PM	10:27AM

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF SEPTEMBER 1, 2008

DEPARTURES

Saipan-Rota

CO 9313	8:30am	9:05am	3,4,7

Saipan-Guam

CO9317	4:00am	4:50am	Daily
CO9597	8:30am	9:20am	1,2,5,6
CO9313	8:30am	10:00am	3,4,7 via Rota
CO9601	12:30pm	1:20pm	Daily
CO9603	3:30pm	4:20pm	Daily
CO9605	6:30pm	7:20pm	Daily
CO9599	9:30pm	10:20pm	Daily

Saipan-Narita

NW 099	5:00am	7:30am	Daily
NW 078	8:55am	2:00pm	Daily
NW 075	4:55pm	7:25pm	Daily

Saipan-Osaka

NW 083	4:20pm	6:55pm	Daily

Saipan-Nagoya

NW 078	8:55am	11:35am	Daily

Saipan-Seoul

OZ 604	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ 604	2:50am	6:30am	2,3,4,5,6,7
OZ 606	3:30pm	7:00pm	2,4,6,7

Saipan-Busan

OZ 608	3:50am	7:20am	1,5

Guam-Manila

CO 891	6:00am	10:30am	3 via Yap and Koror
CO 893	5:50pm	9:10pm	5 via Koror
CO 933	7:00pm	8:40pm	Daily
PR 111	6:00am	7:45am	1,2,4,6,7

Saipan-Guanzhou

CZ 3008	5:00am	8:00am	2,6

Guam-Rota

CO 9598	10:15am	10:45am	1,2,6

ARRIVALS

Rota-Saipan

CO 9598	11:10am	11:45am	1,2,6

Guam-Saipan

CO 9316	2:30am	3:20am	Daily
CO9596	7:00am	7:50am	Daily
CO9598	10:15am	11:45am	1,2,6 via Rota
CO9600	10:45am	11:35am	3,4,5,7
CO9602	2:00pm	2:50pm	Daily
CO9604	5:00pm	5:50pm	Daily
CO9606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily

Narita-Saipan

NW 076	10:15am	2:50pm	Daily
NW 077	6:25pm	1:30am+1	Daily
NW 100	8:45pm	1:20am+1	Daily

Osaka-Saipan

NW 084	10:30am	3:05pm	Daily

Nagoya-Saipan

NW 077	9:00pm	1:30am+1	Daily

Seoul-Saipan

OZ 605	9:00am	2:30pm	2,4,6,7
OZ 603	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ 603	8:10pm	1:40am+1	1,2,3,4,5,6

Busan-Saipan

OZ 607	9:30pm	2:50am+1	4,7

Manila-Guam

CO 892	11:45am	8:25pm+1	3 via Koror and Yap
CO 892	10:10pm	5:30am+1	5 via Koror
CO 934	10:55pm	4:30am+1	Daily
PR 110	10:20pm	4:00am+1	1,3,5,6,7

Guanzhou-Saipan

CZ 3007	8:00pm	4:00am+1	1,5

Rota-Guam

CO 9313	9:30am	10:00am	3,4,7

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; PR: Philippine Airlines; CZ: China Southern; CA: Air China; NW: Northwest; JO: Japan Airlines; OZ: Asiana; MU: China Eastern ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota			
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily
Guam-Rota			
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

- E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com.
- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, CIC Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

POLICY

- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

CUSTOMER SERVICE For inquiries, purchase of back issues and complaints, call (670) 235-8747, 235-2440, fax 235-3740.

SUBSCRIPTION Published Monday to Sunday, *Saipan Tribune* offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of $182. Off-island subscription rate is $376 per year. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

Open letter to Interior's Domenech

By KENNETH GOVENDO
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Dear Mr. Domenech:

I am the Family Court judge in the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands. I am writing to you about some serious things happening to families in Saipan Tinian and Rota because of high price of electricity.

Picture, if you can, a flat roof, three bedroom solid concrete house. People here use concrete for typhoon protection. Now picture that house with absolutely no power or water and an extended family of 10-12 living in it with a couple of infants wearing Pampers. It is a living condition many share here. Every day it's hot, humid, mosquitoes, noisy and smelly. Can these kinds of living conditions lead to domestic violence and neglected children, many of whom are sick? The answer, woefully so, is yes. It's going to get worse.

A great many people here are living as if a Category 5 hurricane roared through the islands, leaving them homeless with no power, no water, no refrigeration, no air conditioning, unsanitary and unhealthy. Unfortunately, we did not have a Cat 5 storm so there is no help in sight for people living like this. They cannot afford electricity. Plain and simple. All this is happening under the United States flag.

A lot of families have abandoned their homestead and moved in with relatives to share the cost of electricity. Some people have given up using clothes dryers, hot water heaters, ovens and more than one air conditioner at a time—they are the rich. The poor have nothing unless they stretch an extension cord to a neighbor's house who will either give them or sell them electricity. We have been told that we must pay for what we use and the rates are set by an organization that seems to be unaware of the grief it has caused in this community.

As the Family Court judge, I see problems unfolding before me every day involving families living without power and water. I have made child custody decisions based on which party has power. In addition to an upsurge in domestic violence, I am approving guardianships every week in which indigenous children are leaving our islands to live with relatives in the states. Parents are doing this because they can't support these children and many have no electricity. They are doing this because they want their children to have better times than they are experiencing now.

The departure of indigenous people coupled with the desire of a great many foreigners to make the CNMI their permanent home ultimately spells death of the indigenous people in their own islands. Not being able to afford electricity, even if you are working, and having to move elsewhere because of it, is *not* the American dream.

One of the main reasons that the people of the Northern Marianas Islands District of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands voted for the commonwealth in association with the United States was to have a better quality of life than "outer island Micronesians." That included electricity, air conditioning, refrigeration and other modern stuff. Instead, 30 years later they are living worse off than they did before commonwealth because they have assumed the American lifestyle and an ever increasing number of people cannot afford to pay for electricity because of the price of oil and the price of repairs because of incompetence and neglect at CUC.

Consider this: A great many local people have lived in the United States in small towns, large cities and everywhere in between. They have seen the power stay on for what must appear to be years at time. They have turned on the tap water, drank it and used it for 24 hours a day, each and every day. These are less than dreams in the CNMI. No one can drink water from the tap. Most have less than an hour a day of water. Some have no water at all. All if this under the United States flag. Shameful.

We need the President of the United States to declare the CNMI a disaster area and have new utilities built for us. The U.S. owes it to the CNMI. When the CNMI became a commonwealth there were less than 20,000 people here and not adequate power, water and sewage treatment. Instead of bringing the utilities up to U.S. standards, the federal government told the Commonwealth to grow and invite everyone in. And we did. We were unable to supply adequate power and water and sewage treatment for 15,000 people and we were certainly unable to do it for badly. All of this under the U.S. flag. Shameful, utterly shameful.

The slogan for the United States of America should now be "Getting Off Of Oil, One Community at a Time". Let's start with us. Our transmission facilities are wonderful. We test them all the time by turning feeders on and off four or five times a day. The only thing that remains to be done is to put the lines underground.

Our way of power generation is what needs to be changed. First and foremost is getting off of oil. I suggest we start with clean coal-generated turbines. After that, we should develop solar thermal energy where the sun will boil water to produce steam and the steam will turn the turbines. The goal should be to produce residential power at no more than six cents a kilowatt hour and commercial power not much higher.

Then we need 24 hours of drinkable water per day. As I said, it's a dream. Much work needs to be done and we don't have any plans. So please come in and do it for us. Then we need to be able to treat every bit of sewage and make sure that not one drop goes into our lagoon. We're not good at that either so, once again, you are going to have to do it for us. These are major undertakings which have never been of high importance here.

I propose that CUC be federalized and the federal government run it for the next 25 years and achieve these goals, along with showing us how to run a utility without waste, nepotism and corruption. Show us how to do it—we can't seem to get the hang of it. We simply can't. You must help because we are Americans and Americans help other Americans, especially the ones who lack the capacity to help themselves.

After 25 years, give CUC back to us but monitor it for us. If we slip and fall back into old practices, take it over for another 25 years and keep doing it this way until we can do it right. Perhaps it will take 200 years. We are slow learners. In the meantime, Americans here cannot be allowed to suffer the way they are now, even at the hand of their own people. Rest assured that Americans (and all others) will continue to suffer if the Commonwealth continues to operate CUC. Pricewise, people still won't be able to afford air conditioning a year from now. Air conditioning, especially for businesses and governmental facilities, is a necessity here just like it is in Miami, Atlanta and Honolulu.

Some have mentioned privatizing CUC. What will happen is that a private company will take over only power generation and invest in generators. It will inherit the transmission facilities and the people will have to pay the debts that have already been incurred. The price won't go down and the CNMI will continue to have rich and poor divided on who can afford electricity and who cannot. The water and sewage treatment situation won't change.

The federalization of immigration is the best thing that's happened to the CNMI in 25 years. The next best thing would be the federalization of CUC for 25 years. President Bush wants to be remembered for a Marine Monument around three uninhabited islands in the northern part of our chain. In the meantime, the human monument to America in the southern part of the chain is crumbling at its foundation—the family. Please tell him to pay attention.

Kenneth Govendo is a Family Court judge in the CNMI Superior Court.

Palin's rules of order: Read minutes, fix storm drain

By JIM SHEA
(C) 2008, THE HARTFORD COURANT

"I guess a small-town mayor is sort of like a 'community organizer,' except that you have actual responsibilities."

—Sarah Palin

The meeting of the Wasilla City Council was called to order by Mayor Sarah Palin at 7:15. Given it was winter and had been dark outside for a few months, no one was exactly sure if it was a.m. or p.m. Besides Mayor Palin, council members present were Norwood, Gabe, Stewy, Borealis, Billy Tork and Miss Kitty.

Norwood made a motion that council secretary Flo Merwin read the minutes of the last meeting. The motion was seconded by Borealis and passed by a vote of 6-1, with Miss Kitty voting "nay" for what she said were personal reasons that she didn't want to make public but had nothing to do with what happened at the Christmas party. Flo then read the minutes:

All council members were present for the meeting, which was presided over by Mayor Palin. All stood for the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by a recitation of the Wasilla loyalty oath and the inspection of council members to determine if anyone was not wearing a lapel pin. The meeting was delayed while Stewy went out to his car to get his pin. The council then discussed the following matters:

Whether to allow the owner of the new taxidermy shop to erect a sign that did not conform to zoning regulations. ... What type of tires should be put on the police cruiser (all-weather radials seem to be favored). ... Fixing the sidewalk near the gas station. ... Allocating funds from the rainy-day account to make up for a deficit in the clerk's office caused by an increase in the price of copy paper. ... A complaint from Burt and Sue that the city was not plowing their street enough, and another complaint from Smokey and his sister Dale that Milly's dog is barking at all hours of the day (or night). ...

Because Mayor Palin had to go over and make an executive decision on a storm-drain cover that was causing problems near the ball field, committee reports were postponed on the following matters: an ordinance banning teenagers from having sex within the city limits; making Jesus the city's official savior; and removing evolution from the high school's science curriculum and making it an after-school club.

Before moving to adjourn, Mayor Palin asked if anyone in the audience wanted to bring anything up. This proved to be a mistake because Miss Kitty's sister, Fanny, was seated in the back row out of sight. Mayor Palin asked Fanny to keep it short, but Fanny had her copy of the Wasilla City Charter under her arm, and said she could talk as long as she wanted to. Mayor Palin then pulled out her .44 and told Fanny that if she talked too long she would just shoot her. Everyone thought that was pretty funny.

Fanny launched into her spiel about how Wasilla needed a leash law for moose. She said that by her count, half of the 6,000 people in Wasilla had a pet moose, and that no one was cleaning up after them. Fanny said the council was shirking its responsibility by not doing something about the problem. She proposed that any resident walking a moose in public be required to have in his or her possession a 20-gallon trash bag and a snow shovel, and that failure to pick up after a moose should draw a fine of $100,000.

Miss Kitty made a motion that Fanny's moose leash law be adopted, but it was defeated by a vote of 6-1.

Mayor Palin asked for a motion to adjourn so she could tend to her executive responsibilities over at the storm drain. The meeting ended at 9:05 -- a.m. or p.m.

Shea is a columnist for The Courant.

Letters to the Editor

Thanks, and we're still watching

It is nice to see that the local oil distributors are beginning to ease the pain of high fuel costs to consumers as the prices have been so far reflected in our price at the pump. Thanks are due to the distributors for being expedient and acting responsibly in this matter.

Public calls for reducing prices with the same speed and alacrity as price decreases occur have been heeded and we are grateful. We'll all be keeping our eyes on the world commodities markets and the corresponding retail prices here. Your responsible actions in this matter are commendable.

Rep. Stanley T. McGinnis Torres
16th Legislature, Capital Hill

Pugua and culture

Dear Governor Fitial: You can take the culture out of betel nut but you can't take the betel nut out of the culture! Hafa Adai!

Alexandro "The Colonel" Sablan
via e-mail

Public ownership of CUC

I have just read recent articles offered by both Mr. Pete A. Tenorio and Mr. Gregorio C. Sablan (Kilili) regarding the problem at CUC. Both gentlemen are calling for federal intervention: Mr. Tenorio is appealing for presidential disaster declaration while Mr. Sablan is forcefully requesting for a congressional hearing on the matter. While no one can deny the fact that CUC is in drastic need of rehabilitation due to numerous technical deficiencies, financial difficulties and management inadequacies, these challenges must be resolved by ourselves. This is our own making and we must squarely deal with it ourselves. Passing our problem for someone else to deal with is not the Chamorro and Carolinian way. This is an affront to the integrity and dignity of our people in the Commonwealth. Both gentlemen are impulsively overreacting and their resolution is for federal intervention and congressional oversights. I hope this is not their usual way of solving problems within the CNMI. The people of the Commonwealth are inundated with legislative oversights. Senator Luis Crisostomo has already conducted extensive oversight hearings plus various other legislative hearings. Perhaps we can ask Senator Crisostomo whatever happened to those hearings.

I am of the opinion that public ownership instead of political management of CUC is the most viable alternative to resolving the problem at CUC. One such idea leading to public ownership of CUC was floated by Mr. Juan T. Guerrero (Pan) where the Funds would invest and own CUC. Since power generation is the last publicly run government service, I do not wish to see it taken over by self-interest groups. The government has already given up on another lucrative public service and money-making entity, telecommunication with MTC.

Felipe Atalig
Garapan, Saipan

Business

Lehman rescue fails, BofA buys Merrill for $50B

Lehman Brothers Headquarters in New York City is seen Saturday, Sept. 13, 2008.

By JOE BEL BRUNO, CHRISTOPHER S. RUGABER and MARTIN CRUTSINGER
AP BUSINESS WRITERS

NEW YORK (AP)—A failed plan to rescue Lehman Brothers was followed Sunday by more seismic shocks from Wall Street, including a government-brokered takeover of Merrill Lynch by the Bank of America for $50 billion.

A forced restructuring of the world's largest insurance company, American International Group Inc., also weighed heavily on global markets as the effects of the 14-month-old credit crisis intensified.

The Federal Reserve also chipped in with more largesse in its emergency lending program for investment banks. The central bank announced late Sunday that it was broadening the types of collateral that financial institutions can use to obtain loans from the Fed.

Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke said the discussions had been aimed at identifying "potential market vulnerabilities in the wake of an unwinding of a major financial institution and to consider appropriate official sector and private sector responses."

Futures pegged to the Dow Jones industrial average fell more than 300 points in electronic trading Sunday evening, pointing to a sharply lower open for the blue chip index Monday morning. Asian stock markets were also falling.

The stunning weekend developments took place as voters, who rank the economy as their top concern, prepare to elect a new president in seven weeks. It likely will spur a much greater focus by presidential candidates—Republican John McCain and Democrat Barack Obama—and members of Congress on the need for stricter financial regulation.

Samuel Hayes, finance professor emeritus at Harvard Business School, said the Bush administration may get a lot of blame for the situation, which could benefit Obama.

"Just the psychological impact of this kind of failure is going to be significant," he said. "It will color people's feelings about their well-being and the integrity of the financial system."

Lehman Brothers may be forced to seek an orderly unwinding of its businesses. All potential buyers walked away after the U.S. Treasury refused to budge on its refusal to provide any takeover aid, as it had done six months ago when Bear Stearns faltered and earlier this month when it seized Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac.

Expectations that the 158-year-old Lehman would survive dimmed after Barclays PLC withdrew its bid to buy the investment bank. Barclays and Bank of America were considered front-runners to buy Lehman, which is foundering under the weight of $60 billion in soured real estate holdings.

Employees emerging Sunday night from Lehman's headquarters near the heart of Times Square carried boxes, tote bags and duffel bags, rolling suitcases, framed artwork and spare umbrellas. Many were emblazoned with the Lehman Brothers name.

TV trucks lined Seventh Avenue opposite the building, while barricades at the building's main entrance attempted to keep workers and onlookers from gumming up the steady flow of pedestrians flowing in and out of Times Square.

Some workers had moist eyes while a few others wept and shared hugs. Most who left the building quietly declined interviews.

People snapped pictures with cameras and their phones. Observers pressed up against a police barricade drew the ire of one man who emerged from the building and shouted: "Are you enjoying watching this? You think this is funny?"

Fed moves to deal with financial crisis

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Federal Reserve announced late Sunday several steps to cope with the worst credit crisis in decades, including broadening the types of assets that investment banks can put up to get emergency loans from the Fed.

The action came as U.S. and foreign commercial banks were hashing out a plan to inoculate the global financial system against the possible failure of Lehman Brothers.

Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke announced the actions in a statement, saying they were being taken after a weekend of discussions with officials from the Treasury Department and the Securities and Exchange Commission and top executives of financial firms.

Those talks were aimed at seeing whether another financial institution would be willing to take over venerable investment bank Lehman Brothers and failing that, how other institutions could pool resources to protect the global financial system.

Bernanke said the discussions had been aimed at identifying "potential market vulnerabilities in the wake of an unwinding of a major financial institution and to consider appropriate official sector and private sector responses."

"The steps we are announcing today, along with significant commitments from the private sector, are intended to mitigate the potential risks and disruptions to markets," Bernanke said.

Besides expanding the types of collateral that can be used, Bernanke said the Fed would also increase the frequency of some of the auctions being used to get loans to banks from every other week to a weekly basis.

In a separate statement Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson said he supported the Fed's moves and said the actions taken should "strengthen and enhance our financial markets. These initiatives will be critical to facilitating liquid, smooth functioning markets and addressing potential concerns in the credit markets."

Paulson, who was involved in three days of talks at the New York Federal Reserve Bank, said he appreciated the efforts by other financial firms involved in the discussions to promote "orderliness and stability in our financial markets as we work through this extraordinary environment."

Christopher Cox, the chairman of the Securities and Exchange Commission, said in a statement that the SEC was working to make sure that the customers of Lehman's broker-dealer operations "will not be adversely affected by recent market events." Cox was also involved in the weekend talks that failed to find a buyer for Lehman Brothers.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

AIG plans major restructuring, according to report

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP)—The Wall Street Journal reported Sunday that American International Group Inc. plans to disclose a restructuring by early Monday that's likely to include the disposal of major assets including its aircraft-leasing business and other holdings. AIG's chief executive, Robert Willumstad, who took the reins on the world's largest insurer in June, has indicated he was willing to shed some assets, saying about a month ago that a "less complex AIG would be a better competitor." The Journal said on its Web site Sunday that AIG was talking to several private equity firms about getting more capital and was hoping to raise more than $10 billion. The New York-based insurer has already raised $20 billion in fresh capital this year.

Financial hardships for most cities to grow in '09

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP)—Declining property-tax revenues, high energy prices and other financial headwinds will create greater economic hardships in 2009 for most cities across the U.S., a new report says. City budget officials say they anticipate more layoffs for municipal workers, cutbacks in parks and recreation programs and library hours, and higher fees for everything from garbage pickup to building permits. The housing crisis has already damaged municipal coffers in 2008, especially in the West, with rising foreclosures and falling home prices resulting in decreased property-tax revenues. Four out of five budget officials who responded to the survey of U.S. cities say next year is likely to be worse. Small but fast-growing suburbs that used low tax rates to attract families are most vulnerable to budget constraints.

Banks roll out $70 billion loan program

NEW YORK (AP)—A group of global banks and securities firms announced late Sunday a $70 billion loan program that financial companies can tap to help ease a credit shortage that threatens global financial markets. The ten banks, which include JPMorgan Chase & Co. and Goldman Sachs Group Inc., said they were committing $7 billion each for the pool. The pool would act as a signal to the marketplace that banks, brokerages, and other financial companies can lean on the fund to take care of borrowing needs. The banks said the program will be available to participating banks which can get a cash infusion up to a maximum of one-third of the total size of the pool. The size of the loan program might increase as "other banks are permitted to join." All participating banks intend to use this facility beginning this week, the statement said. The banks also include Bank of America Corp., Barclays PLC, Citigroup Inc., Credit Suisse Group, Deutsche Bank AG, Merrill Lynch & Co., Morgan Stanley and UBS.

Fed to hold rates steady and ride out storms

WASHINGTON (AP)—Tighten your seat belt. Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke and his colleagues are doing just that as they prepare to ride out economic and financial storms by holding their most important interest rate steady this week and probably through the rest of this year. Unemployment is rising, consumers are clamping down as paychecks shrink and the government snatched control of troubled mortgage giants Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac as it battles the worst financial and credit crises in decades. "There is a witch's brew of problems," said Allen Sinai, chief global economist at Decision Economics Inc.

Nation

Nearly 2,000 brought to safety in Texas

GALVESTON, Texas (AP)—Rescuers said Sunday they had saved nearly 2,000 people from the waterlogged streets and splintered houses left behind by Hurricane Ike. Glass-strewn Houston was placed under a weeklong curfew, and millions of people in the storm's path remained in the dark.

As the floodwaters began to recede from the first hurricane to make a direct hit on a major U.S. city since Katrina, authorities planned to go door-to-door into the night to reach an untold number of people across the Texas coast who rode out the storm and were still in their homes, many without power or supplies.

Many of those who did make it to safety boarded buses without knowing where they would end up, and without knowing when they could return to what was left of their homes, if anything.

"I don't know what I'll be coming back to. I have nothing," said Arma Eaglin, 52, who was waiting for a bus to a shelter in San Antonio after leaving her home and wading through chest-deep water with nothing but her clothes. "I'm confused. I don't know what to do."

The hurricane also battered the heart of the U.S. oil industry: Federal officials said Ike destroyed a number of production platforms, though it was too soon to know how seriously it would affect oil and gas prices.

AP

A beachfront home stands among the debris in Gilchrist, Texas on the coast of the Gulf of Mexico on Sunday, Sept. 14, 2008 after Hurricane Ike hit the area.

Ike was downgraded to a tropical depression as it moved into the nation's midsection and left more harm in its wake. Roads were closed in Kentucky because of high winds. As far north as Chicago, dozens of people in a suburb had to be evacuated by boat. Two million people were without power in Texas, Arkansas and Louisiana.

The death toll from the storm rose to 17. Three were in the hard-hit barrier island city of Galveston, Texas, including one body found in a vehicle submerged in floodwater at the airport. Many deaths, however, were outside of Texas as the storm slogged north.

Ike's 110 mph winds and battering waves left Galveston without electricity, gas and basic communications—and officials estimated it may not be restored for a month.

"We want our citizens to stay where they are," a weary Mayor Lyda Ann Thomas said. "Do not come back to Galveston. You cannot live here at this time."

Houston, the nation's fourth-largest city, was reduced to near-paralysis in some places. Power was on in downtown office towers Sunday afternoon, and Texas Medical Center, the world's largest medical complex, was unscathed and remained open. Both places have underground power lines.

HURRICANE NEWS

Houston issues weeklong curfew after Hurricane Ike

GALVESTON, Texas (AP)—Houston officials have issued a weeklong curfew for the city devastated by Hurricane Ike. Officials announced that a 9 p.m. to 6 a.m. curfew would begin Sunday night and last until Saturday. Most of the city has lost electricity, streets are littered with debris, and police are worried about the safety of residents. Police say residents should not be on the streets during the curfew unless it's an emergency. Ike slammed the southeast Texas coast on Saturday, trapping many people in homes who had stayed behind. Hundreds have had to be rescued and crews are still canvassing neighborhoods inundated by Ike's storm surge.

Hurricane remnants blamed for 3 deaths in Midwest

MUNSTER, Ind. (AP)—A father and son drowned in northwest Indiana while trying to rescue children from a flooded ditch as heavy rains from the remnants of Hurricane Ike forced hundreds of evacuations across the Midwest on Sunday. The two men were killed while helping kids escape a ditch in Chesterton, about 35 miles southeast of Chicago, Fire Chief Warren Highwood said. None of the children were injured. One death was also reported in Arkansas, where a 29-year-old man was killed when a tree fell on a mobile home as he was preparing to leave, authorities said.

Houston inconvenienced, but not devastated

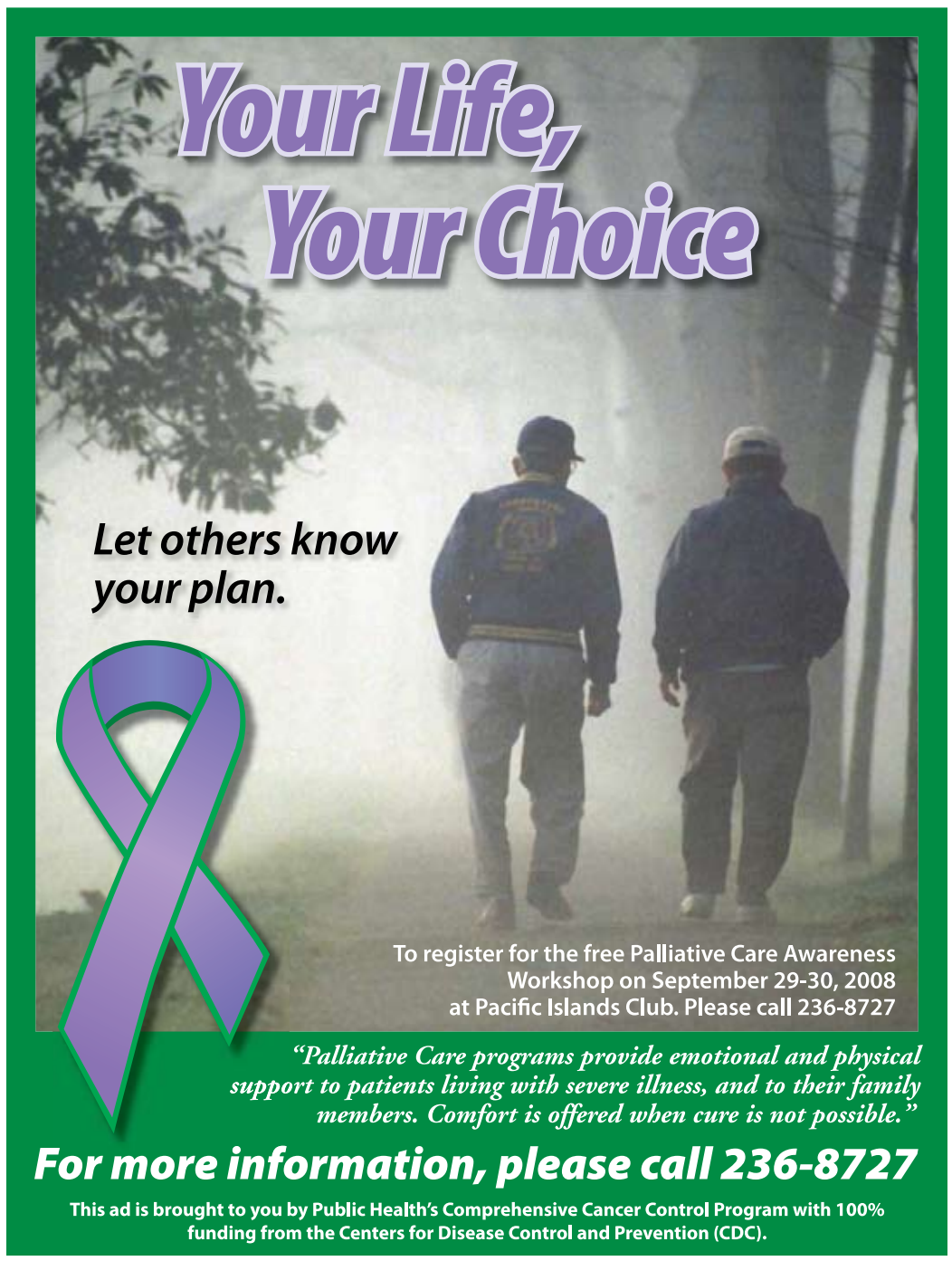
HOUSTON (AP)—Some in America's fourth-largest city fared worse, others better, but the consensus among residents was that Houston, unlike its hard-hit coastal suburbs, was more inconvenienced than devastated. This fast-paced metropolis churns on industries like oil, medical research and space technology. To be sure, commerce was dragged to a halt by Ike, and many companies announced plans to stay closed until further notice while cleanup efforts continue. More than 80 percent of homes and business were still without power Sunday. Courts, schools and many gas stations would be closed heading into the workweek, while the airports planned to resume service on Monday. Interstate 10, the main east-west freeway, was still largely inundated and impassable, as were many side streets.

Ike skews gas; some stations ask $5 a gallon

HOUSTON (AP)—Pump prices jumped above $5 per gallon in some parts of the country Sunday as Hurricane Ike, which caused less destruction than feared, left refineries and pipelines idled and destroyed at least 10 offshore platforms in the Gulf of Mexico. Far beyond areas struck directly by high winds and flooding, Ike left behind it a bizarre pattern of prices at gas pumps, with disparities of more than $1 a gallon in some states, and even on some blocks. Average prices exceeded $4 per gallon in Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, South Carolina, Hawaii and Alaska, according to auto club AAA, the Oil Price Information Service and Wright Express.

Ike evacuees face long stays in makeshift shelters

SAN ANTONIO (AP)—Hurricane Ike's deadly surge has kept thousands of evacuees holed up in cramped quarters—shelters, RVs, even a warehouse—as they face the prospect of returning to flood-ravaged neighborhoods left without electricity. Others huddled in motels in the hopes that they had enough money to stay until it was safe to return—that is, if they had homes to return to. More than 1.2 million people fled the Texas coast during Ike's approach, but officials estimated as many as 140,000 defied evacuation orders and stayed to ride out the enormous Category 2 storm.


Your Life,
Your Choice
Let others know your plan.
To register for the free Palliative Care Awareness Workshop on September 29-30, 2008 at Pacific Islands Club. Please call 236-8727
"Palliative Care programs provide emotional and physical support to patients living with severe illness, and to their family members. Comfort is offered when cure is not possible."
For more information, please call 236-8727
This ad is brought to you by Public Health's Comprehensive Cancer Control Program with 100% funding from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

NATION

AP

Investigators photograph the mangled inside of a Metrolink commuter train in Chatsworth, Calif. on Sunday Sept. 14,2008.

Families, neighbors mourn LA train wreck's 25 victims

SIMI VALLEY, Calif. (AP)—Atul Vyas scored in the top 1 percent on his medical school entry exams, but he was having trouble answering one question on applications to Harvard and Duke: Describe a hardship you've overcome.

"He said, 'I've not had any, I've had a blessed life,'" Vijay Vyas said of his son Sunday.

Atul Vyas never finished the application, never came closer his goal of working in biomechanics. On Friday, he was among 25 killed when a Metrolink commuter train collided with a freight train in nearby Chatsworth. He was 20. The accident was the nation's deadliest rail disaster in 15 years.

■ ■ ■

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Federal investigators say audio recordings from a commuter train are missing required verbal safety checks between the engineer and the conductor in the seconds before the train collided with a freight engine, killing more than two dozen.

Kitty Higgins, a board member for the National Transportation Safety Board, says the recordings show the engineer and conductor called out and confirmed light signals along the route, but the tapes are missing calls for the last two lights the train passed just before the fiery wreck.

She says the last communication was recorded as the train passed a flashing yellow light.

The audio record went silent as the train passed a solid yellow light and then a red signal, which indicated the approach of another engine.

■ ■ ■

Other victims included a yoga instructor, an aspiring clothing designer, an air traffic controller and a seven-year veteran of the Los Angeles Police Department.

The train, which was carrying 222 people when it crashed during afternoon rush hour, was headed north toward Ventura County from downtown Los Angeles.

On Sunday, relatives and friends gathered to plan funerals and mourn together.

Atul Vyas was sitting in the front car of the Metrolink train, on his way to visit his parents in Simi Valley, his father said.

Atul's elder brother, who lives in London, was flying into Los Angeles on Sunday afternoon. His parents did not tell him why they were summoning him to America, only that there was a family emergency.

"He has no idea," Vijay Vyas said. "I said, 'I don't want to discuss it, just show up.'"

Larry Remata had been celebrating the birthday of his 100-year-old mother in Hawaii when he first learned his wife, Donna, hadn't made it home from her downtown job.

Hours later, he learned she had died.

Republicans fault both GOP, Dems campaigns for negative advertising

WASHINGTON (AP)—Leading Republicans on Sunday faulted both presidential campaigns for the increasingly negative tone of their advertising, suggesting the bitter attacks undermine John McCain and Barack Obama's credibility with voters and could backfire.

"Both campaigns are making a mistake, and that is they are taking whatever their attacks are and going one step too far," said former White House political adviser Karl Rove. "They don't need to attack each other in this way."

"There ought to be an adult who says, 'Do we really need to go that far in this ad? Don't we make our point and won't we get broader acceptance and deny the opposition an opportunity to attack us if we don't include that one little last tweak in the ad?'"

In the last week, the McCain campaign has put out an Internet ad accusing Obama of calling Republican vice presidential nominee Sarah Palin a pig when he used the phrase putting "lipstick on a pig" to criticize the GOP ticket as trying to make a bad situation look better. McCain supporters said Obama was slyly alluding to Palin's description of herself as a pit bull in lipstick, but there was nothing in his remarks to support the claim.

The McCain campaign also produced an ad saying Obama favored "comprehensive sex education" for kindergartners; as an Illinois state senator, Obama voted for legislation that would teach age-appropriate sex education to kindergartners, including information on rejecting advances by sexual predators.

In turn, a recent Obama TV ad makes a none-too-subtle dig at McCain's age in saying McCain hasn't changed in the last 26 years. It shows McCain at a hearing in the early 1980s, wearing giant glasses and an out-of-style suit. "He admits he still doesn't know how to use a computer, can't send an e-mail, still doesn't understand the economy, and favors $200 billion in new tax cuts for corporations, but almost nothing for the middle class," the commercial says.

Asia

Women among dead in Pakistan clashes

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan (AP) -- Security forces struck suspected militant hideouts in northwest Pakistan, killing 32 people, including three women, an official said Monday.

The attack Sunday came in the latest round of a bloody military offensive that has reportedly killed hundreds of people in recent weeks in the Bajur tribal region bordering Afghanistan.

Bajur is a suspected hide-out of al-Qaida leader Osama bin Laden and one of the regions the U.S. fears is a safe haven for al-Qaida and Taliban fighters involved in attacks in Afghanistan.

The Pakistani military operation in Bajur comes amid tension with the U.S. over whether the Muslim nation is doing enough to root out insurgents from its territory and whether the U.S. should pursue its own unilateral strikes there.

Senior government official Iqbal Khattak said most of the dead Sunday were alleged militants but at least three were women. The information is difficult to confirm independently because of the region's remote and dangerous nature.

Security forces have used helicopter gunships, fighter jets and heavy artillery to attack suspected militant positions in various areas in Bajur, Khattak said.

The government said late last month that it would cease military operations in Bajur for the Muslim holy month of Ramadan, but reserved the right to retaliate against insurgent activities.

Army spokesman Maj. Gen. Athar Abbas said factors including persistent militant mortar attacks and threats to pro-government tribes prompted the military to restart its operation.

RP Muslim rebels step up attacks despite Ramadan

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Muslim guerrillas staged six attacks against army troops in the southern Philippines over the weekend, escalating their assaults despite the holy Islamic fasting month of Ramadan, military officials said Sunday.

Army officials also alleged that Moro Islamic Liberation Front guerrillas have been training minors for combat, citing a video of such training found on a compact disc that they said was seized in a captured rebel stronghold on southern Mindanao island.

There were no army casualties but an undetermined number of guerrillas were either wounded or killed in clashes that erupted Saturday when small numbers of rebels attacked army patrols or detachments in the provinces of Maguindanao, North Cotabato and Lanao del Norte, military spokesman Lt. Col. Ernesto Torres said.

"We are very fortunate that our troops were prepared," Torres said, adding that the military had expected the rebels, who have split into small groups, to stage small but more widespread attacks.

Another army spokesman, Maj. Armand Rico, said the rebel attacks showed that unlike the military, the guerrillas did not respect Ramadan.

Man-eating tigers stalk fishermen in Indian jungle

JHARKHALI, India (AP)—The fishermen were hauling in the first net of the morning when the tiger pounced.

Kumaresh Mondal managed to run a few steps before the 450-pound beast knocked him down with a leap, tore into his throat, and dragged his limp body into the dense mangrove forest.

"I tried to chase the tiger, but I couldn't find any path," said Monoranjan Mondal, another of the four men fishing that day in March. "There were no tracks, no broken branches. ... He just took him away."

The Sundarbans, a tangle of unforgiving islands at the mouth of the Ganges River, are home to perhaps the world's largest population of wild tigers—as well as millions of the poorest people in India and Bangladesh. Despite decades of attempts to keep the tigers at bay, they still kill about two dozen people every year.

Now, experts fear environmental changes and shrinking land could lead to more tiger-human conflicts, with disastrous results for both.

ASIAN BRIEFS

China launches inspection of dairies

BEIJING (AP)—China on Monday launched a nationwide inspection of dairy producing facilities focusing on milk collecting centers as the number of babies sickened by tainted milk powder rose to 580, state media reported. New Zealand's prime minister, meanwhile, said she ordered that senior Chinese officials in Beijing be told about China's tainted milk problem because local Chinese officials had stalled calls for a full recall of the infant formula. The contaminated milk powder sold by Sanlu Group Co., China's biggest milk powder producer, has caused about 580 babies to develop kidney stones, according to China Daily newspaper. The newspaper cited Li Changjiang, head of the General Administration for Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine. The number of sickened babies stood at 432 on Saturday, according to Health Minister Gao Qiang. One baby reportedly died.

'More than troops needed in Afghanistan'

BAGHDAD (AP) -- U.S. Gen. David Petraeus said Sunday that experience in Iraq shows it will take political and economic progress as well as military action to tackle increased violence in Afghanistan. "You don't kill or capture your way out of an industrial strength insurgency," he told The Associated Press in a telephone interview. His comments come as a debate over the need to redeploy troops from Iraq to Afghanistan has become a central issue in the U.S. presidential campaign. Petraeus, who is widely credited with pulling Iraq back from the brink of civil war, is taking over as chief of U.S. Central Command, the headquarters overseeing U.S. military involvement throughout the Middle East, as well as Afghanistan and the rest of Central Asia. He'll hand over the reins in Iraq to Lt. Gen. Ray Odierno Tuesday during a ceremony at the U.S. military headquarters at Camp Victory on the western outskirts of Baghdad.

Unidentified foreign submarine spotted near Japan

TOKYO (AP)—Japan was searching Sunday for an unidentified foreign submarine detected in its territorial waters earlier in the day, the Defense Ministry said. The Aegis destroyer Atago of Japan's Maritime Self-Defense Force spotted what it determined to be a periscope of an unknown submarine between Kyushu and Shikoku islands in western Japan, the ministry said. By the time officials confirmed that the submarine was not a U.S. or Japanese vessel, it had left the area, it said. Officials dispatched the Atago as well as P-3C patrol airplanes to look for the submarine, the ministry said in a statement.

Thaksin relative wins ruling party backing for PM

BANGKOK, Thailand (AP)—Thailand's ruling party has endorsed the brother-in-law of deposed leader Thaksin Shinawatra as its nominee to become the next prime minister. The spokesman for the People's Power Party, Kuthep Saikrajang, says the party picked acting Prime Minister Somchai Wongsawat on Monday ahead of a parliamentary vote scheduled for Wednesday. Somchai was a deputy prime minister and education minister in the Cabinet of Samak Sundaravej, who was forced to resign last week for violating a conflict-of-interest law. He is also married to Thaksin's sister, a political liability in the eyes of anti-government protesters who accuse Thaksin and Samak of corruption. Anti-government protesters say they will not accept any candidates allied to Thaksin or Samak.

World

Roadside bombs strike Iraq police convoy, kill 5

BAGHDAD (AP)—Three roadside bombs planted in succession struck a police convoy in one of Iraq's most dangerous provinces on Sunday, killing five policemen. In Baghdad, the leader of a Sunni group allied with the U.S. died when his booby-trapped car exploded.

The bombs planted along a main thoroughfare targeted a police convoy in Jalawla, 60 miles north of Baghdad, said Ibrahim Bajilan, head of the provincial council of Diyala.

The province, northeast of Baghdad and bordering Iran, remains a major security challenge for the U.S.-backed Iraqi government, even as violence drops in other parts of the country.

Diyala has had a volatile mix of Sunni and Shiite militants, and some Iraqi Arabs are concerned that forces from the Kurdish autonomous region in northern Iraq are encroaching on territory there.

On Saturday night, a bomb killed the leader of a U.S.-backed, Sunni armed group in the al-Furat neighborhood of western Baghdad.

The bomb exploded in the car of Fuad Ali Hussein, killing him as well as his deputy and two bodyguards. Hussein was head of a neighborhood awakening council - a term describing Sunni Arab insurgents and tribesmen who turned against al-Qaida in Iraq and formed alliances with the United States.

Hussein's death was confirmed by a police officer and the head of another awakening council. Both requested anonymity for security reasons. The U.S. military said it knew of one person killed and another wounded in that attack.

In political developments, Iraq's parliament voted to lift the immunity of a Sunni Arab lawmaker who visited Israel to attend a counterterrorism conference this month. Mithal al-Alusi was also barred from traveling outside Iraq or attending parliamentary sessions.

Engine failure cited in deadly Russian jet crash

AP

Investigators work at the Boeing-737-500 crash site near rail tracks of the Trans-Siberian railway on the outskirts of the Ural Mountain city of Perm, late Sunday, Sept. 14, 2008.

PERM, Russia (AP)—A Russian passenger plane that caught fire as it fell from the sky on Sunday likely suffered engine failure before it crashed, killing all 88 people on board, investigators said.

The right engine of the Boeing 737-500 caught fire as it prepared to land in Perm, they said. The plane came down on the outskirts of the city, hitting the ground just a few hundred yards from small wooden houses and apartment buildings. Officials said no one on the ground was killed.

Flight 821, operated by an Aeroflot subsidiary, carried 82 passengers, including six children under 10, and six crew members, Aeroflot said.

Aeroflot officials said the plane was circling at about 3,600 feet in "difficult weather conditions"—including low cloud cover and rain—when it lost contact with ground dispatchers.

Witnesses said the plane was on fire as it fell.

"I felt an explosion, it threw me off the bed," a woman in Perm who was not identified told Vesti-24 television. "My neighbors, other witnesses told me that it was burning in the air, it looked like a comet. It hit the ground opposite the next house, trailing like fireworks in the sky."

It crashed around 3:15 a.m. on the outskirts of Perm, about 750 miles east of Moscow.

The most likely cause was engine failure, Vladimir Markin, a spokesman for the federal prosecutors' Investigative Committee, said in televised comments.

The head of the Investigative Committee said examination of the site showed the crash "apparently was connected to technical failure and a fire in the right engine," the ITAR-Tass news agency reported.

"There is much evidence for this," Alexander Bastrykin was quoted as saying.

The plane's flight recorders have been found, and officials said it will take three to four weeks to analyze them.

The passenger jet fell on a railroad embankment, damaging a section of the track. Parts of the plane's fuselage reading "Aeroflot" and "Boeing" lay askew on the rails, along with clothing, life preservers and engine parts.

6 found guilty of terrorism charges in Australia trial

MELBOURNE, Australia (AP)—A jury Monday convicted a Muslim cleric and five of his followers of forming a terrorist group in Australia that allegedly considered assassinating the prime minister and attacking major sporting events.

Four other men were found innocent of being members of the group and the jury was still deliberating on charges against two more, as verdicts were delivered in Australia's largest terrorist trial.

No attack took place, but prosecutors alleged the group, based in Australia's second-largest city of Melbourne, intended to undertake "violent jihad," and identified railway stations and sports fields as possible targets.

During the long-running trial, prosecutors alleged the group had talked about launching an attack at a football final that attracts close to 100,000 people each year, or the Formula One Grand Prix race held annually in the southern city.

They also allegedly discussed killing former Prime Minister John Howard, who ordered Australian troops to join the U.S.-led invasions of Afghanistan and Iraq.

All of the suspects had pleaded not guilty. Defense lawyers painted the suspects as disgruntled men whose bravado led to talk about violent attacks but who had no ability to carry out such acts.

The men found guilty are yet to be sentenced. They face life terms in prison.

Morales struggles to control Bolivia amid violence

LA PAZ, Bolivia (AP)—President Evo Morales struggled to assert control over a badly fractured Bolivia on Sunday as protesters set fire to a town hall and blockaded highways in opposition-controlled provinces, provoking gasoline and food shortages.

At least 30 people have been killed in the poor Andean nation this week, Interior Minister Alfredo Rada said. All the deaths occurred in Pando province, where Morales declared martial law on Friday, dispatching troops and accusing government foes of killing his supporters.

The governor of natural gas-rich Tarija, representing the four eastern provinces that are in rebellion, said before entering talks in the capital Sunday with Morales that half the country was paralyzed by 35 highway blockades.

"Also paralyzed are borders with Argentina, Brazil and Paraguay," Gov. Mario Cossio said, expressing hope of laying the groundwork for a truce.

South America's leaders were headed to Chile, meanwhile, for an emergency summit Monday aimed at trying to prevent Bolivia from splintering apart. All the presidents of the continent's major nations except Alan Garcia of Peru confirmed their attendance, including Morales.

AP

Supporters of Bolivia's President Evo Morales hold sticks and stones as they stand guard at a road blockade, 50 km (some 31 miles) south of Santa Cruz, eastern Bolivia, Sunday, Sept. 14, 2008.

WORLD BRIEFS

Pope urges pilgrims at Lourdes to cling to hope

LOURDES, France (AP)—People must cling to hope even in dire circumstances like injustice and torture, Pope Benedict XVI told the faithful at Sunday Mass in Lourdes, which has become a shrine for desperate causes and hope against all odds. "The power of love is stronger than the evil which threatens us," Benedict told at least 100,000 pilgrims gathered for Mass on a rain-soaked field. Some knelt on cardboard boxes or plastic bags to protect themselves from the damp conditions, while others watched from wheelchairs. About 6 million people, many of them sick and suffering, visit the French town in the foothills of the Pyrenees each year to drink from and bathe in its cool spring. Many Roman Catholics believe the water has healing powers, and the Church has officially recognized 67 miracle cures here.

Zimbabwe opposition to get Cabinet majority

HARARE, Zimbabwe (AP)—On paper—and it's a paper he has yet to sign or even publicly admit exists—President Robert Mugabe appears to be acknowledging at last that he cannot rule Zimbabwe alone. Mugabe, Zimbabwe's main opposition leader and a leader of a smaller opposition faction were to sign a power-sharing deal Monday that has resulted from weeks of negotiations mediated by South African President Thabo Mbeki. Mbeki and Morgan Tsvangirai, the main opposition leader, announced a deal late Thursday. They gave no details, saying the agreement would be made public Monday. Members of the opposition first gave the broad outlines Friday, and media controlled by Mugabe confirmed their version Sunday.

Chavez slams critics for downplaying alleged plot

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)—President Hugo Chavez reprimanded skeptics on Sunday for questioning his warnings that Washington is out to kill him - an accusation that Venezuela's opposition dismisses as a ploy to distract attention from domestic problems such as rampant violent crime and corruption. Venezuelans are sharply divided between those who believe that radicals backed by the United States are plotting to assassinate their socialist leader, as the government claims, and critics who seriously doubt the accusations. "Those who talk about it try to ridicule the allegation. For Venezuela's opposition, it's a lie," Chavez said on his Sunday broadcast show. "Some say it's a farce." "They don't care about my death," Chavez added, suggesting some government adversaries would like to see him assassinated.

Overdrive

2009 Dodge Challenger R/T: Muscle-car madness

By WARREN BROWN
(C) 2008, THE WASHINGTON POST

The 2009 Dodge Challenger R/T coupe

Raw, unbridled power is as attractive as it is forbidding. The more taboo it becomes, the greater its attraction grows, which is the only way we can explain what happened to us during our week in the 2009 Dodge Challenger R/T coupe, black with big fat tires and a 370-horsepower, 5.7-liter Hemi V-8 engine.

We were followed, ogled, begged and made several offers we easily refused. We were stopped by fellow motorists, quizzed at length by perfect strangers. It mattered not who was behind the wheel—me; my wife, Mary Anne; or my associate in vehicle evaluations, Ria Manglapus. The car was a magnet, even when the only person sitting inside was Ria's 83-year-old mother, Ursula DeGuia.

"People keep asking me about this car," Ria's mom said. "They like this car," she said after being stuck in it for a few minutes in a Costco parking lot. "Everybody keeps stopping by asking about this car."

It was not the reaction we expected.

Gasoline prices are high. The housing industry remains in a slump. We are in the middle of a national political campaign season in which posturing, particularly on matters of energy consumption, more often than not trumps policy.

On top of it all, the Challenger R/T, an unabashed throwback to the muscle-car era of the late 1960s and early 1970s, is not what we normally construe to be a Washington automobile. It is domestic metal, as Detroit as domestic metal can be, which means that, on the surface, it hearkens back to the bad old days when horsepower reigned and Detroit didn't give a hoot about fuel economy.

We expected ridicule, clucking tongues, wagging fingers, maybe an occasional lecture or two on how the new Challenger R/T represents everything that's wrong with Detroit—an egregiously consumptive car that is the wrong product at the wrong time.

Instead, we reaped praise and envy. We got thumbs-up signs everywhere.

"What's up with that?" I asked a young motorist who pulled alongside of me during one of those endless traffic jams on Interstate 66 West.

"Man," the kid said. "That's pure car, pure power. It is what it is, and it's hot."

It is so easy in this business to become entrapped by conventional wisdom, to believe that everybody is doing this or that—such as abandoning the pursuit of horsepower, the exercise of automotive muscle in favor of better fuel economy.

But the world is not that simple. It is not so easily ordered. For many people, including many who agreed that we should be doing more to conserve fuel, a big car with big tires and a big engine represents unfinished business, a part of youth untapped, a dream of prowess or power unfulfilled. They want the Challenger R/T. At the very least, they want the idea of it, which is why Dodge offers a V-6 version and V-8 with variable valve displacement, which allows the V-8 to run with all eight cylinders when that kind of power is desired, or to cruise more efficiently in four-cylinder mode when muscle isn't needed.

Those options make Challenger ownership much more plausible in a world challenged by rising fuel prices and changing attitudes about energy use. But, clearly, there remains something remarkably attractive about a muscle-bound automobile with a wide, low-slung, almost growling stance.

"Sweet!" said a man who pulled up next to me when I was waiting at a stop light on Constitution Avenue in D.C. "I always wanted one of those," he said. He leaned to the side of his driver's side window, his voice conspiratorial: "Gun it, brother!" he said. "Gun it! You know you want to gun that one."

But I was overcome by the nerd in me. I resisted the temptation to show off. But I finally understood what loving the big-muscled Challenger R/T was about. I found a few deserted back roads in the deepest Shenandoah Valley, where gunning the engine was not likely to get me in trouble with the law or with other motorists. I took a deep breath and stomped the accelerator pedal. Va-va-varooom, whoosh!

Oh, my God! I understood. The Challenger R/T's rear drive wheels planted themselves. The car launched. I did it again and again. I was embarrassed by my motorized profligacy. But I loved every moment of it. I understood.

NUTS & BOLTS

COMPLAINT
The new Challenger R/T is so true to form—wide, aggressive stance; mean face; muscular rear—it also contains many of the deficits of the 1970s muscle cars, such as uncomfortable rear seats. But buyers of the new Challenger are not likely to care.

RIDE, ACCELERATION AND HANDLING
From the driver's perspective, it's all good, particularly on a long, deserted stretch of road, assuming you can find one. This, make no mistake about it, is a driver's car.

HEAD-TURNING QUOTIENT
It turned heads everywhere—easily the most attractive car we've driven in months.

BODY STYLE/LAYOUT
The 2009 Dodge Challenger R/T is a front-engine, rear-drive, retro-sports coupe hearkening back to the muscle car days of yore. Available are a V-6 model, the R/T with the tested 370-horsepower, 5.7-liter Hemi V-8; and the 425-horsepower, 6.1-liter SRT Hemi V-8.

ENGINE/TRANSMISSION
In the tested 5.7-liter Hemi V-8 R/T, the engine developed 370 horsepower at 5,800 revolutions per minute and 398 foot-pounds of torque at 4,200 revolutions per minute. The engine is mated to a standard six-speed manual transmission. A five-speed transmission that can be shifted automatically or manually is available.

CAPACITIES
There are seats for five people. But rear-seat space is tight. Luggage capacity is 16.2 cubic feet. The Challenger R/T can be equipped to tow 1,000 pounds. Fuel capacity is 19 gallons of recommended regular unleaded gasoline.

MILEAGE
We got barely 15 miles per gallon in the city and 22 on the highway. But no one will buy this one for fuel economy.

Safety
Standard equipment includes antilock brakes, side air bags, and electronic stability and traction control.

PRICE
The base price is $29,320. Dealer's invoice price on that model is $27,168. Price as tested is $35,075, including $5,080 in options (onboard navigation, Bluetooth and iPod connectivity, power glass roof, premium sound system, 20-inch diameter aluminum chrome clad wheels, five-speed automatic transmission) and a $675 destination charge. Dealer's price as tested is $32,516.

PURSE-STRINGS NOTE
As improbable as it might sound in an era of high fuel prices, this one is likely to sell. The people who like it—and there are many—are fanatics. Bring on the Chevrolet Camaro.

CRUISIN'

Are American-made cars overpriced?

By GREG ZYLA
(C) 2008 KING FEATURES SYND., INC.

Q: I wrote to you a while back about the U.S. auto industry making better cars. However, everything now looks real gloomy, jobs are being lost and Ford, GM and Chrysler all are having horrible years. I still feel the prices are too high for cars. I know the VIPs are making a good wage, compared with the salary I received in my many years of work, but they have to lower the prices, or I won't buy a new car anymore. I want to buy American-made cars if possible, but right now some foreign cars are cheaper.—R.D., Wisconsin

A: R.D., I guess I still can't argue much about your concerns, because gas prices are high, the economy is not in the best of shape, workers are getting laid off, and prices for cars in the mid- to higher-end model lines are indeed expensive.

However, and on a positive note, you'll be pleased to know that the average price of a mid-size new car is still within reach of most employed American consumers. Many nice models have retail prices less than $17,000 fairly well equipped, and subcompacts can be purchased brand new with full warranties for less than $11,000, like the Chevy Aveo, Kia Rio or Hyundai Accent. I know two of these cars are foreign, but they are economically very attractive.

If you want to buy American—and I see nothing wrong with that—check your Chevy dealer, as the Aveo is a neat little car.

■ ■ ■

Write to Greg Zyla in care of King Features Weekly Service, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475, or send e-mail to gzyla@ptd.net.

GM rolls on rough road as it nears 100th birthday

DETROIT (AP)—In his 43 years as a General Motors Corp. factory worker, Roger Ezell has seen recessions, gasoline price spikes, sales slumps and multibillion dollar losses.

Each time, he says, the giant automaker has survived to make billions in later years.

But as GM celebrates its 100th anniversary Tuesday, the company that was once the nation's largest employer faces a crisis like no other in its storied history.

GM has lost $57.5 billion in the past 18 months, including $15.5 billion in the second quarter. It's burning more than $1 billion a month in cash, has more than $32 billion in long-term debt, and a slumping U.S. market has forced it to close factories and shed workers.

In July, it suspended its dividend for the first time in 86 years, and the company has been in perpetual restructuring since at least 2002.

"We've seen them down further than what they are, and they got back up," said Ezell, 63, who passed up several early retirement offers to keep working at a factory near Pontiac that makes the Chevrolet Malibu and Pontiac G6 midsize sedans. "I believe in GM. There's no doubt in my mind."

Yet industry analysts wonder whether GM can make it if the U.S. economy stays in a funk and consumers continue to shun trucks and sport utility vehicles for small, fuel-efficient cars. One analyst even mentioned bankruptcy protection for the company that developed the first fully automatic transmission, the first V-8 engine, the first hydrogen fuel cell vehicle and even the first mechanical heart-lung machine.

Life & Style

The Dancoe-Cabrera wedding

Charles Dancoe, more popularly known on the islands as Daddy Long Legzz, and Thelma Carberra Hawkins were joined together as one couple during a wedding ceremony held Aug. 30, 2008.

Their wedding, held in Phoenix, Arizona, was attended by a large clan of former and current island residents, who wished the new couple a blissful marriage and future successes.

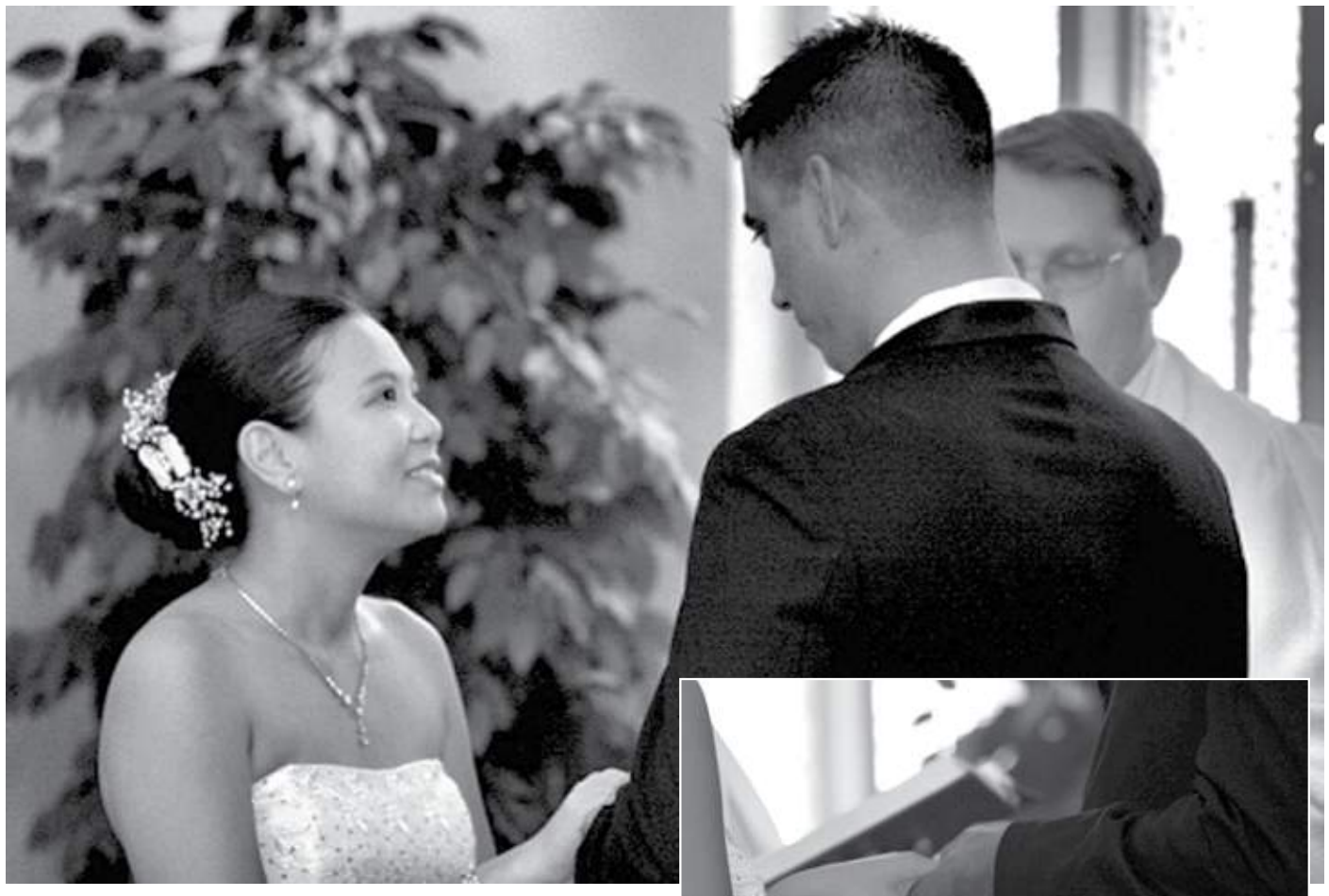
Charles Dancoe, the former morning man of Power 99 and program director, is now working with Clear Channel, which owns more than over 1,100 radio stations, 40 television stations and 870,000 outdoor advertising displays. Clear Channel Communications operates in 65 countries with more than 30,000 employees according to its website.

Thelma is the daughter of Carl and Magarita Cabrera Hawkins and holds a bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice and Criminology.

The newlyweds, Charles "Daddy Long Legzz" and Thelma Dancoe.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Mr and Mrs Dancoe.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Ashley Dancoe, who is visiting from New York, is shown here with AJ Sablan.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Thelma Cabrera reads her wedding vows.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Thelma and Charles "Daddy Long Legzz" Dancoe depart the church after the wedding ceremony.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Thelma Cabrera Dancoe poses with Liz Deleon Guerrero.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Frankie Deleon Guerrero watches the wedding ceremony while sucking on a bottle of milk. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Thelma and Charles exchange wedding bands during the wedding ceremony.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Kalani Dancoe poses for the camera. Kalani is the daughter of Charles Dancoe.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Liz Deleon Guerrero poses with husband Frank at the wedding.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The bride and groom depart the church for the reception.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

'Burn After Reading' is No.1 at the box office

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Joel and Ethan Coen scored their biggest opener to date by raking in $19.4 million in ticket sales for "Burn After Reading" and helping end a seven-week attendance slide at theaters, according to studio estimates Sunday.

The madcap comedy starring Brad Pitt, George Clooney and John Malkovich raked in $7 million more than the writing-directing duo's last box-office hit, the 2004 comedy "The Ladykillers," according to box office tracker Media by Numbers.

"Burn After Reading's" success comes just a year after the brothers gained widespread acclaim for the drama "No Country for Old Men," which won four Academy Awards and grossed $73.3 million.

Their Oscar credentials and the star-studded cast combined to make "Burn After Reading" a hit, said Jack Foley, president of distribution for Focus Features.

"The Coens have broken into more commercial territory with this film," Foley said. "They've become more of a household name."

The weekend's three other new releases also turned in solid performances.

Writer-director Tyler Perry's "The Family That Preys," starring Kathy Bates and Alfre Woodard in a drama about two families from different social classes, debuted at No. 2 with $18 million. Five out of six of Perry's films have opened at No. 1 or No. 2 on their opening weekends, said Steve Rothenberg, president of domestic distribution for Lionsgate.

1. ***"Burn After Reading,"*** $19.4 million.
2. ***"Tyler Perry's The Family that Preys,"*** $18.0 million.
3. ***"Righteous Kill,"*** $16.5 million.
4. ***"The Women,"*** $10.1 million.
5. ***"The House Bunny,"*** $4.3 million.
6. ***"Tropic Thunder,"*** $4.2 million.
7. ***"The Dark Knight,"*** $4.0 million.
8. ***"Bangkok Dangerous,"*** $2.4 million.
9. ***"Traitor,"*** $2.1 million.
10. ***"Death Race,"*** $2.0 million.
11. ***"Babylon A.D.,"*** $1.7 million.
12. ***"Mamma Mia!,"*** $1.7 million.

AP

In this image released by Focus Features, directors Ethan Coen, left, Joel Cohen, and actor George Clooney are shown on the set of, "Burn After Reading."

Rothenberg said he expected "The Family that Preys" to continue to play well over upcoming weekends as Perry's movies typically do.

"It should have good legs," he said.

Overture Film's "Righteous Kill" opened at No. 3 with $16.5 million, proving that A-list stars Robert DeNiro and Al Pacino still draw fans. The movie played to a wide range of ages and both genders, said Kyle Davies, Overture's executive vice president of theatrical distribution.

"The primary appeal is to see these two legends together," he said.

Picturehouse's "The Women"—starring Meg Ryan and Annette Bening in a remake of George Cukor's 1939 comedy-drama—was No. 4 with $10.1 million.

The weekend's total box-office draw should surpass $100 million, breaking a seven-week slide in ticket revenue, said Paul Dergarabedian, president of Media by Numbers. Last weekend was the slowest moviegoing weekend in five years, with just $67.6 million.

He attributed the uptick to the variety in genres that studios offered this weekend.

"Audiences want a lot of choice," he said. "Each of these movies had a particular demographic. This was the cinematic equivalent of a magazine rack."

The next seven films in the top dozen were holdovers, grossing $4.3 million or less.

The Batman sequel "The Dark Knight" continued to rack up its gross with another $4 million, for total box office revenue of $517.7 million to date.

Last weekend's top-ranked "Bangkok Dangerous" starring Nicolas Cage dropped to eighth place with $2.4 million.

The top 12 movies at U.S. and Canadian theaters Friday through Sunday, as estimated by Media By Numbers LLC. Final figures will be released

HOLLYWOOD THEATERS

Don't just go to the movies, GO HOLLYWOOD!

Located near Price Costco in San Jose Saipan MP • 234-9000

POWER 99 FM SAIPAN, CNMI

$5.00 Bargain Matinees - All Shows Before 6PM
$5.00 All Day Admission For Seniors
$4.00 All Day Admission For Kids
$5.00 Student Admission with Valid I.D.
$5.00 Military with Valid I.D.

THRIFTY TUESDAYS $5 ADMISSION ALL DAY TUESDAYS FOR FILMS WITH A (T)

RESERVE TICKETS ONLINE AT www.gohollywood.com

dts DOLBY DIGITAL STADIUM SEATING WITH HIGH-BACK LOVESEATS

For Friday, September 12 through Tuesday, September 16 only!
THEATER CLOSED ON WEDNESDAYS AND THURSDAYS BEGINNING SEPTEMBER 17

★ ★ ★ NOW SHOWING ★ ★ ★

Righteous Kill

Friday		4:25	7:30	9:45
Saturday	1:30	4:25	7:30	9:45
Sunday	1:30	4:25	7:30	
Mon thru Tue		4:25	7:30	

Robert De Niro, Al Pacino
Action, Drama • Rated R

Synopsis

A serial murderer walks the streets of Manhattan, targeting violent felons who have fallen through the cracks of the judicial system. All the victims are suspected criminals whose bodies are found accompanied by a four line poem justifying the killing. The killer's mission is to do what the cops can't do on their own—take the bad guys off the streets for good. When a notorious pimp becomes one of the killer's victims, highly decorated detectives Turk and Rooster are called in to investigate. This case could easily be the biggest one in their 30 years on the force.

Tyler Perry's Family That Preys

Friday		4:20	7:05	9:35
Saturday	1:05	4:20	7:05	9:35
Sunday	1:05	4:20	7:05	
Mon thru Tue		4:20	7:05	

Alfre Woodard, Sanaa Lathan
Drama, Comedy • Rated PG 13

Synopsis

Wealthy socialite Charlotte Cartwright and her dear friend Alice Pratt, a working class woman of high ideals, have enjoyed a lasting friendship throughout many years. Suddenly, their lives become mired in turmoil as their adult children's extramarital affairs, unethical business practices and a dark paternity secret threaten to derail family fortunes and unravel the lives of all involved. Alice's self-centered newlywed daughter Andrea is betraying her trusting husband Chris by engaging in a torrid affair with her boss and mother's best friend's son William.

★ ★ ★

Bangkok Dangerous

Friday		4:05	7:00	9:50
Saturday	1:00	4:05	7:00	9:50
Sunday	1:00	4:05	7:00	
Mon thru Tue		4:05	7:00	

Nicolas Cage, Shahkrit Yamnarm
Action, Thriller, Sci-Fi • Rated R

Babylon A.D.

Friday		4:00	7:10	10:00
Saturday	1:15	4:00	7:10	10:00
Sunday	1:15	4:00	7:10	
Mon thru Tue		4:00	7:10	

Vin Diesel, Michelle Yeoh
Drama, Thriller, Sci-Fi • Rated PG 13

Traitor

Friday		4:10	7:25	9:40
Saturday	1:20	4:10	7:25	9:40
Sunday	1:20	4:10	7:25	
Mon thru Tue		4:10	7:25	

Don Cheadle, Guy Pearce
Drama, Thriller • Rated PG 13

Death Race

Friday		4:30	7:20	9:55
Saturday	1:25	4:30	7:20	9:55
Sunday	1:25	4:30	7:20	
Mon thru Tue		4:30	7:20	

Jason Statham, Tyrese Gibson
Action, Thriller • Rated R

Tropic Thunder

Friday		@	7:15	9:30
Saturday	@	@	7:15	9:30
Sunday	@	@	7:15	
Mon thru Tue		@	7:15	

Ben Stiller, Jack Black
Comedy • Rated R

The Mummy: Tomb of the Dragon Emperor

Friday		4:15	@	@
Saturday	1:10	4:15	@	@
Sunday	1:10	4:15	@	
Mon thru Tue		4:15	@	

Brendan Fraser, Jet Li
Action, Adventure • Rated PG 13

● NO PASSES ■ NO PASSES OR SUPER SAVERS

GIFT CERTIFICATES AVAILABLE • R-RATED FILMS REQUIRE PHOTO I.D.

www.gohollywood.com

Matt Damon, Wyclef Jean visit Haiti city in ruins

GONAIVES, Haiti (AP)—Cries of adulation—and hunger—followed Haitian-born singer Wyclef Jean and actor Matt Damon as they toured flood-ravaged Gonaives on Sunday to call attention to widespread suffering in the marooned city.

Tropical Storm Hanna and Hurricane Ike submerged the Haitian city and cut off roadways. Where waters have receded, streets remain a stinking mud bath and homes are carpeted with muck and encrusted pots, pans and laundry.

"I'm speechless, I can't believe it," said Damon, looking down from a U.N. helicopter at people living on the rooftops of flooded homes.

AP

Actor Matt Damon, second left, wades through a flooded street along with Haitian-born singer Wyclef Jean, unseen, as both are escorted by U.N. peacekeepers and police officers in Gonaives, Haiti, Sunday, Sept .14, 2008.

The four-hour visit passed in a blur of stenches, colors and noise. A man on a bicycle tried to keep up with Damon and Jean's truck, shouting, "I love you, Wyclef." Jean raised his hand, but couldn't smile back.

"It's inhumane. I wish there was a word in the dictionary. No human should be living like this," said Jean, who became famous through his Grammy-winning band, The Fugees, and later emerged as a solo artist.

As they turned onto the flooded Rue Christophe, another pickup packed with women sloshed within arm's reach. Face-to-face with the celebrities, the women cried, "We're hungry!" A young man calf-deep in water raised both arms and shouted, "Fix our roads. Fix our city!"

Damon and Jean encouraged help for the United Nations to raise more than US$100 million for 800,000 Haitians in need after four tropical storms and hurricanes have struck the country since mid-August.

Jean's Yele Haiti charity is helping the World Food Program and the Organization of American States-affiliated Pan American Development Foundation distribute food to 3,000 families. The convoy visited a school shelter Sunday to hand out cooking oil and bags of beans.

Proud and tumultuous Gonaives is where Haiti declared independence from France in 1804 as the world's first black republic. Bloody 1985 protests led to the downfall of the father-son Duvalier dictatorship and in 2004 a deadly march fomented the ouster of President Jean-Bertrand Aristide.

Fears that unrest is simmering here has led U.N. officials to distribute food at night under Argentine soldiers' guard. Haitian officials have discussed building new settlements for vulnerable residents above the current city.

Once emergency aid started arriving four days after the storm, the U.N. agencies began ratcheting up food distributions to reach as many as 12,000 people a day. More than 120,000 people are in shelters in the Artibonite region, which includes Gonaives, desperate for water and food, the Haitian government reported.

Novelist David Foster Wallace found dead

CLAREMONT, Calif. (AP)—David Foster Wallace, the author best known for his 1996 novel "Infinite Jest," was found dead in his home, according to police. He was 46.

Wallace's wife found her husband had hanged himself when she returned home about 9:30 p.m. Friday, said Jackie Morales, a records clerk with the Claremont Police Department.

Wallace taught creative writing and English at nearby Pomona College.

"He cared deeply for his students and transformed the lives of many young people," said Dean Gary Kates. "It's a great loss to our teaching faculty."

Wallace's first novel, "The Broom of the System," gained national attention in 1987 for its ambition and offbeat humor. The New York Times said the 24-year-old author "attempts to give us a portrait, through a combination of Joycean word games, literary parody and zany picaresque adventure, of a contemporary America run amok."

Published in 1996, "Infinite Jest" cemented Wallace's reputation as a major American literary figure. The 1,000-plus-page tome, praised for its complexity and dark wit, topped many best-of lists. Time Magazine named "Infinite Jest" in its issue of the "100 Best English-language Novels from 1923 to 2005."

Wallace received a "genius grant" from the MacArthur Foundation in 1997.

In 2002, Wallace was hired to teach at Pomona in a tenured English Department position endowed by Roy E. Disney. Kates said when the school began searching for the ideal candidate, Wallace was the first person considered.

"The committee said, 'we need a person like David Foster Wallace.' They said that in the abstract," Kates said. "When he was approached and accepted, they were heads over heels. He was really the ideal person for the position."

Wallace's short fiction was published in Esquire, GQ, Harper's, The New Yorker and the Paris Review. Collections of his short stories were published as "Girl With Curious Hair" and "Brief Interviews With Hideous Men."

He wrote nonfiction for several publications, including an essay on the U.S. Open for Tennis magazine and a profile of the director David Lynch for Premiere.

Born in Ithaca, N.Y., Wallace attended Amherst College and the University of Arizona.

Emmys double up on Conrad; presenter, designer

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The Emmy Awards just can't get enough of Lauren Conrad. Conrad, made famous by the reality series "The Hills," has been tapped to present an award, the TV academy said. She'd already been called on to design a gown for one of the "trophy girls" who bring awards on-stage.

Conrad joins such established stars as Tina Fey, Kristin Chenoweth and Conan O'Brien in the presenter ranks for the Sept. 21 awards airing on ABC.

Besides Conrad, other presenters announced this week include Christina Applegate, Candice Bergen, David Boreanaz, Wayne Brady, Jimmy Kimmel and Kiefer Sutherland.

Applegate is a nominee for "Samantha Who?" while Bergen received a nod for "Boston Legal."

AP

In this Sept. 7, 2008 file photo, actress Lauren Conrad arrives at the 2008 MTV Video Music Awards held at Paramount Pictures Studio Lot in Los Angeles.

Rourke grapples back to form with 'The Wrestler'

TORONTO (AP)—Mickey Rourke's character in "The Wrestler" describes himself as a broken-down slab of meat, a man who's alone and deserves to be.

It's a striking echo of how Rourke discusses his real life, the way he squandered his early potential with bad-boy behavior that left him largely unemployable in Hollywood save for roles as heavies that have been his main screen work the last two decades.

The story of a comeback attempt by a former wrestling golden boy fallen on hard times, "The Wrestler" parallels Rourke's own return to the sort of critical acclaim he once earned with such films as "Diner," "Rumble Fish" and "Barfly."

"I ruined that myself," Rourke said in an interview with The Associated Press at the Toronto International Film Festival, where "The Wrestler" screened. "I wasn't ready at that time. There were some broken pieces I didn't know how to fix that made me behave a certain way. I wasn't knowledgeable enough for many, many years to understand or want to accept the fact that the movie business was political, and that it's a business. You know, coming out of the Actors Studio, I thought it was just about acting, and I knew I could do that. And I knew I could do that better than most people.

"That's what I carried around, and I was very wrong. Very wrong, very immature, very uninformed, very uneducated about that. I wish I knew differently, because I put myself and a lot of other people through a lot of hell that I regret."

In 1994, Rourke was accused of spousal abuse against his wife at the time, actress Carre Otis. Charges later were dropped after prosecutors were unable to get Otis to testify.

An amateur boxer in the 1970s, Rourke went pro in the early 1990s, a time when his movie career had dried up.

AP

Actor Mickey Rourke poses for a portrait while promoting his film "The Wrestler" during the International Film Festival in Toronto, Tuesday, Sept. 9, 2008.

In the years since, Rourke has had occasional success in supporting roles, notably his turn as a colossus of a man on a vengeful rampage in "Sin City."

"The Wrestler" marks the first time in ages anyone has entrusted Rourke with a lead role, let alone a challenging, sympathetic one. Director Darren Aronofsky fought to cast Rourke, whom potential financial backers did not want in the film.

Aronofsky only got his way by paring the film down to a $6 million budget, small change by Hollywood standards.

The payoff already has been big. "The Wrestler" won top honors at the Venice Film Festival last weekend and was picked up for U.S. distribution at Toronto this week by Fox Searchlight, which plans to release it in December, the heart of Academy Awards season.

Rourke, who turns 52 on Sept. 16, is getting solid Oscar buzz for "The Wrestler."

"There's an incredibly honest performance in the film, and the fact that people are reacting is not surprising to me," said Aronofsky, whose previous films include "Pi" and "Requiem for a Dream." "We all knew how great and talented he was. He just hasn't had the opportunity to show the world for a while.

Roadside memorials are comfort to some, distraction to others

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: I was a little disappointed in your reply to "M.H. in L.A." (June 22) regarding roadside memorials. I know you feel they are a gesture of respect, but really, there's a time and place for everything. Memorials belong in cemeteries, not on our roadways.

My dear father was run over by a truck and killed. I would never dream of putting up a cross as a reminder of the place where he died. That was done at the cemetery the day we laid him to rest.

We need to celebrate life, not death. By creating roadside memorials we solidify the place of death, not the life the individual had. Also, the memorial becomes a constant reminder to first responders who must pass by that place every day. I have worked with a crisis response team in my county and was told by a 19-year-old firefighter who couldn't sleep that it was because of the body parts they had to pick up from the roadway. Why have visual reminders on the road to remind everyone of the worst day instead of the best days of the individual's life?

SEEN AND HEARD TOO MUCH

DEAR SEEN AND HEARD: Readers were divided on this issue. Some find the memorials to be comforting. Read on:

DEAR ABBY: I live in Japan, and often when people die, a small statue or flowers will be placed in their memory. It serves a twofold purpose. First, to remind others how lucky they are to have loved ones, and second, it serves as a warning to others to beware of hazards.

AMERICAN IN JAPAN

DEAR ABBY: Please allow me to comment to "M.H. in L.A." There may not be a cemetery in which to pay your respects because some victims are cremated. Placement of the roadside memorial often reflects where the loved one spent his or her final moments. It is calming to go to the place where our loved one transitioned. I hope "M.H." will never have to encounter this sad experience.

JUST A MOM

DEAR ABBY: I agree with "M.H." I think roadside memorials are overdone and unnecessary. If you wish to honor someone's memory, look into the adopt-a-highway program and put the person's name up for motorists to see.

KANSAS CITY READER

DEAR ABBY: I felt the same as "M.H. in L.A."—until 2004, when a dear friend of mine was killed by a drunk driver. Kit was a Boy Scouts of America professional on his way to do his duty for the youth of South Dakota. Kit was killed instantly, but his legacy lives on in the hearts of thousands of youths and adults who miss him to this day.

Every time I drive past his highway marker I wave to him and recite the Scout Oath, "On My Honor ..."

GRIEVING RETIRED SCOUT EXECUTIVE

DEAR ABBY: You are absolutely correct that these spontaneous tributes can distract passing motorists. They are often on a dangerous part of the roadway that precipitated the fatality, and people stopping to place flowers and other tributes can lead to further fatalities. Better to do your grieving in a cemetery, lest you wind up a permanent resident in one yourself—or worse, cause some other motorist to suffer the same fate.

J.K., COLUMBIA, S.C.

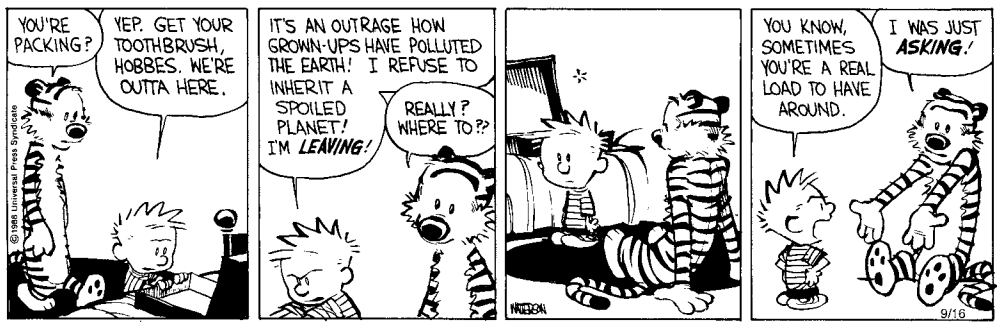
Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

What teens need to know about sex, drugs, AIDS and getting along with peers and parents is in "What Every Teen Should Know." To order, send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $6 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Teen Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


YOU'RE PACKING?
YEP. GET YOUR TOOTHBRUSH, HOBBES. WE'RE OUTTA HERE.
IT'S AN OUTRAGE HOW GROWN-UPS HAVE POLLUTED THE EARTH! I REFUSE TO INHERIT A SPOILED PLANET! I'M LEAVING!
REALLY? WHERE TO??
YOU KNOW, SOMETIMES YOU'RE A REAL LOAD TO HAVE AROUND.
I WAS JUST ASKING.
9/16

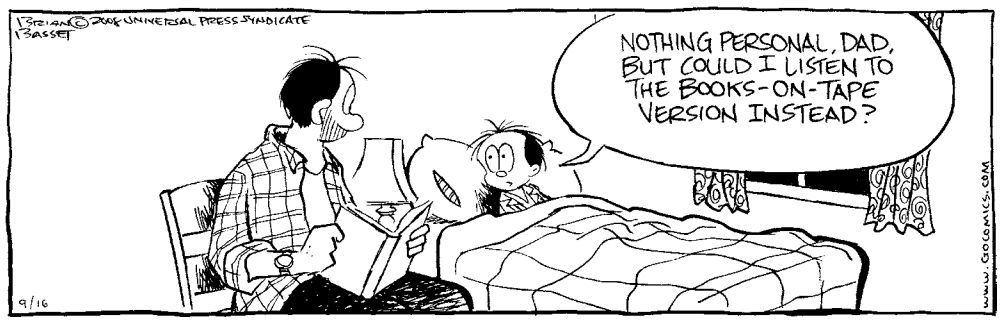
Garfield®

By Jim Davis

I GOT A TRAFFIC TICKET TODAY...
FOR SINGING AT A RED LIGHT WITH MY WINDOWS DOWN
I HAVE TO PAY A FINE AND CARRY A PITCH PIPE IN MY CAR AT ALL TIMES
I'VE HEARD YOU SING... YOU GOT OFF EASY
JIM DAVIS 9-16

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

DID YOU GET A LOAD OF CLETUS DRIVING HIS TRACTOR WITHOUT A SHIRT?
OH, GIRLFRIEND!
LET'S GO TRY ON LINGERIE AT THE WAL-MART TODAY!
...AND GO MAN-HUNTING OUTSIDE THE DAIRY QUEEN!
"SEX AND THE COUNTRY."

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

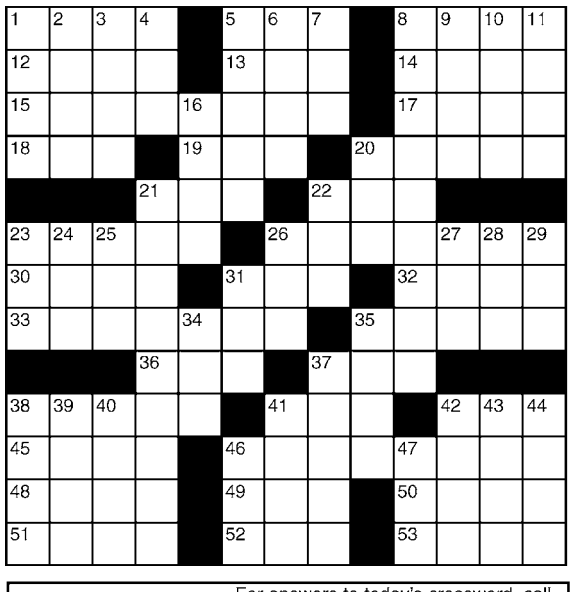
ACROSS
1 William H. of "Fargo"
5 Recipe meas.
8 Work at the keyboard
12 — vera
13 Hooter
14 Frost
15 Non-paying passenger
17 Baseball scores
18 Upper surface
19 With it
20 Elude
21 Automaton, for short
22 Depressed
23 Tote
26 Rhesus monkey
30 Curved molding
31 Pack quantity
32 Took off
33 Arizona tribe
35 Green gemstones
36 Barbie's pal
37 Rapture
38 Wanderer
41 Conger, e.g.
42 Collection
45 Swear 'tis true
46 Gilligan, for one
48 Antitoxins
49 Halloween abbr.
50 Actor Bogarde
51 Bohemian
52 Surprise cries
53 Look lasciviously

DOWN
1 Sail support
2 Choir member
3 Hen pen
4 Evergreen
5 Namely
6 Trade
7 Thickness
8 Nonchalant
9 "— be surprised"
10 Throe
11 Gaelic
16 Pirate's greeting
20 Happy companion?
21 Secession
22 Remiss
23 Inmate
24 Khan title
25 Gun the engine
26 Wrong (Pref.)
27 Proof conclusion
28 French article
29 UFO crew?
31 Junior
34 Clampett patriarch
35 A bit of a shock
37 "He — at scars..."
38 Houston acronym
39 Finished
40 Comedian Sahl
41 Apiece
42 Hearty drink
43 "My Name Is —"
44 Youngster
46 Bill's partner
47 Rumpus

Solution time: 21 mins.

B	R	A			E	L	F		G	A	I	T
L	U	S	T		W	A	R		L	I	R	A
O	L	I	O		E	M	U		A	M	E	N
B	E	F	O	G		A	I	D	S			
			K	E	G		T	U	S	S	L	E
C	H	A	T	T	E	R		O	C	C	U	R
O	U	C	H		M	U	G		E	U	R	O
A	S	H	E	S		B	E	S	I	D	E	S
T	H	E	F	T	S		L	O	L			
			L	Y	N	X		N	I	G	H	T
P	O	L	O		A	R	E		N	O	I	R
O	R	E	O		I	A	N		G	U	R	U
P	E	A	R		L	Y	E			T	E	E

Yesterday's answer 9-16



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Madeline Zima, 23; Alexis Bledel, 27; Marc Anthony, 40; Jennifer Tilly, 50

Happy Birthday: Too much may be riding on your ability to stay calm and let things play out to the end where your financial, legal or even medical concerns come into play. Do your research. It's a waiting game this year and, the more observant you are, the better you will do. Your numbers are 7, 10, 18, 22, 39, 44, 46

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Before you get into the middle of the fire, make sure you know what you are dealing with. This can turn into a memorable day with lots of romance or it can go down the drain if you let jealousy get the better of you. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): You are in a much better position than you realize. Broaden your horizons but don't think you have to spend a lot in the process. Ask questions and you will be shown how to make your next move. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Things are heating up socially. Your ideas alone will draw a lot of attention and potential partnerships that can lead to profits. Love is looking good, so renew vows or make a new commitment. ✪✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Acceptance will be key when it comes to getting things done and holding on to what you already have. A short trip will result in information that will help you achieve your most recent tasks. An older or experienced person in your life will help you. ✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Follow your intuition and you'll make the right choice. A trip will pay off. Someone who's a little bohemian will intrigue you mentally, physically and emotionally. Love is apparent; plan your actions. ✪✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): You'll be taken advantage of financially if you let your emotions lead you. Instead of spending, focus on bringing money in and ridding yourself of any debts you've incurred. Now is a great time to clear the air. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): You'll be difficult to say no to, so pull in favors and plan a fabulous evening with someone you love to spend time with. Problems regarding home renovations or dealing with people you live with will escalate if you don't stay calm. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Don't be tempted to get involved in something that sounds too good to be true. Do your research and you'll find out that someone is trying to trick you. Don't let your jealousy or emotions get the better of you. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Expect to advance one way or another. If you lose your job, a better one will become available. If you apply for a new position, you will not be denied. It's all a matter of taking the initiative without overselling what you have to offer. ✪✪✪✪

CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Don't let your heart rule your pocketbook. Rely on a trusted and conservative friend to show you the way to turn a little into a lot. A sentimental moment may take you back to a past relationship that is better left alone. ✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

COPYRIGHT 2007 UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Don't disappoint someone who counts on you. Your intuition will help you move into the next phase of your life, financially and personally. A promise made will be kept, allowing you far more maneuverability. ✪✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): You don't have to be pushy or manipulative to get your way. Simplicity, fair play and looking for the best personality fit will be most important. Before approaching anyone, be sure to have your strategy totally worked out and ready to go. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are interesting, intelligent and constantly in search of new information. You are emotional, adaptable and prefer to journey down unique paths.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun,* ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

		7				1		
	6						7	
5			8		3			6
	4	2		5		9	8	
			6		9			
	3	9		8		5	6	
9			3		1			8
	8						5	
		1				7		

Difficulty Level ★★ 9/16

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

4	6	8	9	2	3	5	7	1
7	9	2	5	8	1	4	6	3
3	5	1	6	7	4	2	9	8
6	7	4	8	1	2	9	3	5
8	2	5	7	3	9	1	4	6
9	1	3	4	6	5	7	8	2
5	3	7	1	4	8	6	2	9
1	8	6	2	9	7	3	5	4
2	4	9	3	5	6	8	1	7

Difficulty Level ★ 9/13

©2007 Conceptis Puzzles, Dist. by King Features Syndicate, Inc.

WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

ARTIFICIAL ORGAN RESEARCH **Solution: 5 letters**

N	F	S	G	E	L	A	B	O	R	A	T	O	R	Y
W	O	L	F	A	C	A	P	R	O	G	R	E	S	S
U	N	I	Y	U	U	N	I	S	B	M	I	L	T	B
S	P	E	T	D	N	T	E	R	S	D	L	H	N	I
T	R	U	N	A	H	C	O	I	E	E	C	T	E	O
N	T	I	M	E	T	O	T	M	C	T	Y	N	I	D
E	F	U	A	P	S	N	S	I	A	S	A	E	R	E
M	H	R	E	V	I	L	E	P	O	T	E	M	T	G
P	T	F	I	L	T	E	R	M	I	N	I	E	U	R
O	C	U	N	I	V	E	R	S	I	T	Y	C	N	A
L	E	T	C	A	S	P	I	H	C	R	A	A	E	D
E	J	U	A	R	T	I	C	L	E	S	E	L	G	A
V	B	R	S	M	S	A	E	R	C	N	A	P	Y	B
E	U	E	E	S	M	E	D	I	C	A	L	E	X	L
D	S	N	O	I	T	A	Z	I	N	A	G	R	O	E

© 2008 Universal Press Syndicate www.wonderword.com 9/16

Arms, Articles, Automatic, Biodegradable, Case, Cells, Chips, Developments, Experimentation, Eyes, Filter, Find, Flow, Function, Future, Heart, Hospital, Human, Laboratory, Layer, Legs, Limbs, Liver, Machine, Material, Medical, Nutrients, Organizations, Oxygen, Pancreas, Patch, Progress, Pump, Replacement, Science, Subject, Time, University

Yesterday's Answer: Hospitality

Treasury 4 is available to order by sending check or money order for $10.95 plus $3.25 postage and handling ($14.20 total, U.S. funds only) for the first volume, $1.50 p&h for each additional volume, to Universal Press Syndicate, Attn: Wonderword, 4520 Main

CLASSIFIED ADS

FOR RENT - COMMERCIAL

2 Commercial Space for Rent. One 2000 sq.ft. & One 1000 sq.ft. Garapan area across Treasure Island Game Club. Contact Emil De Belen @ 483-3645/233-5100

WHATZIT Solution:
Daddy Longlegs

FOR RENT - RESIDENTIAL

Apartment room for rent: Fully furnished 1 brm, T/B, 24-hr water $210/month, near Conwood | Tel. 287-1372, 235-6748

EMPLOYMENT

Pizza Hut now hiring, Crew Members, Customers Service, Delivery Driver. Great part-time work, great working conditions, great teams. Stop by and pick up an application.

NOTICE
Sammy Costales
Is NO longer associated with JAG General Construction and has no authority to incur obligations or collect any accounts receivable or acting relating any jobs on behalf of JAG

NEED PROPERTIES
We are looking for all kinds of properties, vacant property, commercial building, house, or apartment for long term lease or for sale. Interested owners, you may visit Yuta Office beside Bank of Guam in San Antonio.

Saipan Ice & Water Co., Inc.
has an immediate opening for the following position:

Delivery man-(4)

Apply in person or bring resume to
Saipan Ice & Water Co., Inc. in Lower Base
E-mail: spnice@pticom.com

SAIPAN ICE & WATER CO., INC.

WHATZIT?™

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

FATHER

© 2008 WHATZIT? is a trademark of Paul Sellers
Distributed by Universal Press Syndicate

Find today's solution in this section

Subscribe to CNMI's First Daily Newspaper

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Building Superintendent - CNMI Judicial Branch

The Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) Supreme Court announces the position of Building Superintendent for the CNMI Judicial Branch.

NATURE OF WORK: The Building Superintendent will be responsible for supervising and directing the operation and maintenance of the Guma Hustisia (Saipan Judicial Complex) and other court facilities. Duties include: operation and maintenance of building mechanical, electrical, plumbing, structural equipment; supervising maintenance staff; review and compliance with existing laws, rules, regulations and Court policies; development of comprehensive plans and programs for court facilities; assistance in budget appropriations for operation and maintenance of court; teach and enforce safety practices; other related duties as assigned.

QUALIFICATIONS: The Superintendent should hold a Bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university or 5 years of equivalent experience, and must be knowledgeable in using tools, equipment, and other related machinery required of a building engineer. The applicant also must be able to operate court vehicles.

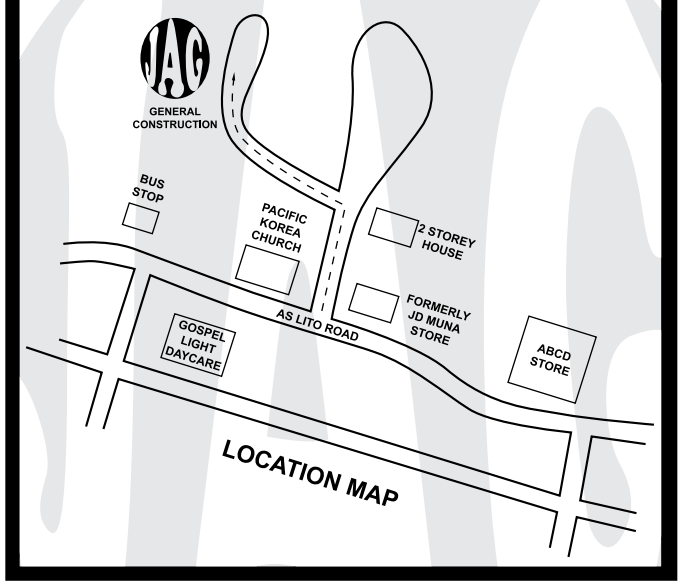
COMPENSATION AND TENURE: This is an ungraded position appointed and served at the pleasure of the Chief Justice. Salary will be negotiable.

INTERESTED PERSONS should submit their resume and standard Office of Personnel Management application to the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, the Honorable Miguel S. Demapan, at the Guma' Hustisia/Iimwal Aweewe/House of Justice Susupe, Saipan or mail to P.O. Box 502165 Saipan, MP 96950. For additional information about this position, call (670)236-9715. Resume and application must be received by 12:00 noon on Friday, October 3, 2008.

WE HAVE MOVED

JAG
Electrical • Plumbing • Carpentry • Structural
Painting • Iron Works • Masonry
GENERAL CONSTRUCTION
We do 24-Hours Services

Specialized in
• Railing • Grilles • Fence • Sprial Staits • Gates • Playground Equipment • Steel Door • Aircon Ducting • Muffler • Bending • Small Engine • All Types of Sheet Fabrication



Saipan Chamber of Commerce
Coordinator

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce is looking for a methodical and organized individual with initiative and excellent interpersonal and communication skills.

Job duties include:

- Performance of general office skills
- Ability to analyze and critique legislation, letters, and other documents
- Ability to work and communicate with various governmental agencies
- Provision of direct assistance to multiple Chamber committees
- Preparation of financial invoices; recordation of financial transactions
- Management of up-to-date, accurate, and organized files for committees, planning meetings, special projects, and workshops
- Supporting the Executive Director, Board of Directors, committees, and members

This is a highly demanding and challenging position. Successful applicants must be adept at working and communicating with the public, must be able to handle many projects simultaneously, and must be able to take initiative and work independently under the general direction of the Executive Director.

Minimum requirements:

- U.S. citizenship
- Excellent work ethic
- Valid CNMI driver's license, insurance, and own working vehicle
- Flexibility in work schedule
- Strong communication skills, including ability to read, write, and speak clearly in grammatically-correct English
- Competence in Microsoft Word, Excel, and Outlook; working knowledge of computers and other office equipment
- College AA degree and/or office management experience desirable

Salary commensurate with experience. Application deadline is **Friday, September 19, 2008**. Application form available at the Saipan Chamber of Commerce office, Family Building, Garapan Street, Garapan, or online at www.saipanchamber.com.

CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 7-day run on both print and online edition, for as low as $25 per 3 liner ad for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of below packages that fits your budget.

ADS (7DAYS)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	$25
• 5-Liner	$35
• 3-Liner with picture	$45
• 5-Liner with picture	$55

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Saturday And Sunday Issues:
- *Saipan Tribune:* All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on either Sunday or Monday issues.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

Zambrano throws no-hitter as Cubs beat Astros

MILWAUKEE (AP)—Carlos Zambrano pitched the first no-hitter for the Chicago Cubs in 36 years, returning from a recent bout of rotator cuff soreness to shut down the Houston Astros 5-0 Sunday night in a game relocated because of Hurricane Ike.

Zambrano stopped a Houston team that had not played since Thursday. The storm forced baseball to move two games from Texas to Miller Park, home of the Brewers, and the Astros flew hours before they took the field.

Zambrano (14-5) struck out a season-high 10 and walked one in the Cubs' first no-hitter since Milt Pappas pitched one against San Diego in 1972.

The Cubs took a 7 1/2 -game lead in the NL Central over the fading Brewers, who were swept in a day-night doubleheader by the Philadelphia Phillies. The Astros fell two games behind the Phillies and Brewers.

Zambrano also made an offensive contribution in the Cubs' four-run third inning, singling and then chugging home from first on Lee's double. The Cubs chased Randy Wolf (10-12) in the third, his shortest outing of the season.

Pitching for the first time since Sept. 2, and cheered on by thousands of Cubs fans, Zambrano stopped a Houston team that had not played since Thursday. The storm forced baseball to move two games from Texas to Miller Park and the weary Astros arrived only hours before the first pitch.

The Cubs, meanwhile, faced a short bus ride. Plenty of their faithful followed them up I-94, once again turning the Brewers' ballpark into "Wrigley North."

This was baseball's first neutral-site no-hitter, the Elias Sports Bureau said.

"It was a long travel day and Hurricane Ike," Astros manager Cecil Cooper said. "That's what I put it on. That and having two days off. I'm not saying he wasn't good."

Zambrano, known for his emotional displays on the mound, kept himself in control until striking Darin Erstad to finish off the gem.

Zambrano (14-5) dropped to his knees and pointed to the sky with both hands after getting Erstad to swing and miss for his season-high 10th strikeout. The big right-hander was immediately mobbed on the mound by his teammates.

"I'm a little confused right now," the three-time All-Star said. "I still can't believe it. It's a great feeling, a feeling that you can't describe."

The crowd of 23,441 erupted in a wild ovation after chanting "Let's go Z!" throughout the final inning.

Zambrano walked one and hit a batter in the Cubs' first no-hitter since Milt Pappas against San Diego in 1972. This was the 13th no-hitter in team history, including five in the late 1800s.

AP

Chicago Cubs starting pitcher Carlos Zambrano throws during the first inning of a baseball game against the Houston Astros on Sunday, Sept. 14, 2008, in Milwaukee. The game is being played at Miller Park because of the effects of Hurricane Ike in Houston.

Phillies 7, Brewers 3, 1st game

In Philadelphia, Brett Myers pitched a two-hitter and the Phillies moved into a tie for the NL wild-card lead, sweeping a day-night doubleheader from the Brewers.

Pat Burrell homered and Shane Victorino went 4-for-4 in the nightcap for the surging Phillies. Myers (10-11) gave up just a pair of hits while striking out four.

Jeff Suppan (10-9) labored through 3 2-3 innings, giving up six runs and eight hits.

In the first game, Ryan Howard and Victorino homered and Burrell hit an RBI single to cap a four-run eighth inning.

Braves 7, Mets 4

In New York, fill-in closer Luis Ayala gave up a go-ahead homer to pinch-hitter Greg Norton, and Atlanta rallied for five runs in the ninth inning and a victory that trimmed New York's tenuous NL East lead to one game.

Wasting two homers by David Wright and a strong start from Oliver Perez, the Mets lost for the ninth time in 30 games.

The Mets squandered a seven-game cushion with 17 to play last year, letting Philadelphia charge past them for the division title in one of the worst collapses in baseball history.

Rockies 1, Dodgers 0, 10 innings

In Denver, Troy Tulowitzki singled home the winning run with one out in the 10th to help Colorado end Los Angeles' four-game winning streak.

The Dodgers, who had won 12 of 13, lead Arizona by 4 1/2 games in the NL West.

The Rockies loaded the bases on reliever Hong-Chih Kuo (5-3) on singles by Matt Holliday, Garrett Atkins and Ryan Spilborghs, and Tulowitzki lined an 0-2 pitch down the right-field line to end Colorado's seven-game losing streak. Manuel Corpas (3-3) got the win.

Reds 2, Diamondbacks 1, 10 innings

In Phoenix, Corey Patterson homered to give Cincinnati a win over slumping Arizona.

With one out, the .202-hitting Patterson hit a 3-2 pitch high off the right-field foul pole against Jon Rauch (4-8), sending the Diamondbacks to their eighth loss in nine games.

Patterson's shot was Cincinnati's third hit and ended a string of 19 straight men retired by Diamondbacks pitchers.

David Weathers (4-6) pitched a scoreless ninth. Francisco Cordero gave up a pair of singles in the 10th before striking out Chris Young for his 31st save in 37 chances.

Marlins 8, Nationals 7

In Miami, Josh Willingham drove in the go-ahead run to help Florida rally past Washington.

Trailing 6-1, Florida scored seven runs off four Washington relievers in the eighth to go ahead 8-6.

Andrew Miller (6-9) got the win for Florida and Steven Shell (2-2) took the loss. Arthur Rhodes got his first save.

Washington starter Collin Balester didn't allow a hit for 5 2/3 innings. He gave up one run and four hits in 6 2/3 innings. The 22-year-old struck out five and walked three.

Pirates 7, Cardinals 2

In Pittsburgh, Adam LaRoche drove in three runs with a pair of hits and the Pirates scored three times in both the first and second innings and went on to beat St. Louis for a three-game sweep.

Nate McLouth hit his 25th homer—his previous major league high was 13 last season—and had two RBIs as the Pirates all but finished off St. Louis in the NL wild-card race.

The 2006 World Series champions have lost five in a row and 11 of 15. The Cardinals trail three teams for the wild card with only 13 games to play.

T.J. Beam (2-1), the second of five Pittsburgh pitchers, allowed one run over three innings for the victory.

Giants 8, Padres 6, 10 innings

In San Diego, rookie Pablo Sandoval scored the go-ahead run on a wild pitch in the 10th inning and San Francisco beat San Diego.

Sandoval led off with a double against rookie Dirk Hayhurst (0-2), the Padres' eighth pitcher. Sandoval went to third on Travis Ishikawa's single to left, and scored when Hayhurst bounced a curveball in the dirt that got away from catcher Nick Hundley.

Rookie Sergio Romo (2-1) pitched the ninth inning for the win. Brian Wilson got the last three outs for his 39th save in 44 chances.

Red Sox 4, Jays 3

In Boston, Jon Lester held Toronto to four hits over eight innings and Coco Crisp drove in two runs to lead the Boston Red Sox over Roy Halladay and the Toronto Blue Jays 4-3 on Sunday.

The Red Sox moved within one game of AL East-leading Tampa Bay, which lost to New York 8-4. Boston and the Rays begin a three-game series on Monday in St. Petersburg, where the Red Sox are 0-6 so far this season.

Lester (15-5), who has not lost since the Blue Jays scored seven off him on Aug. 23, struck out six for his second straight victory. He has allowed just two earned runs in 19 1-3 innings over his last three starts, winning two.

Jonathan Papelbon pitched the ninth for his 38th save.

White Sox 4, Tigers 2, 1st game
White Sox 11, Tigers 7, 2nd game

In Chicago, DeWayne Wise hit a pinch-hit grand slam in the eighth inning and Chicago completed a doubleheader sweep after the bullpen blew a seven-run lead.

Jim Thome hit his 539th homer and Brian Anderson went deep against Kenny Rogers, but the relievers imploded after John Danks pitched six scoreless innings.

Matt Thornton (5-3) got five outs for the win. Bobby Seay (1-2) took the loss for Detroit.

In the opener Javier Vazquez (12-13) took a shutout into the eighth and Alexei Ramirez homered.

Juan Uribe singled in Ken Griffey Jr. in the fifth inning and Ramirez made it 2-0 in the seventh with his 17th homer, sending the White Sox to just their second win in six games. DeWayne Wise added an RBI double, and Jermaine Dye drove him in with a single that made it 4-0 and chased Justin Verlander (10-16).

Yankees 8, Rays 4

In New York, Derek Jeter collected three hits for the third straight game, Alex Rodriguez belted a grand slam and New York beat Tampa Bay to win the weekend series against the AL East leaders.

Jeter moved into a tie with Lou Gehrig for most career hits at Yankee Stadium and Jason Giambi hit a two-run homer for New York.

Mariano Rivera entered with two on in the ninth and struck out Erick Aybar for his 35th save in 36 opportunities. The All-Star closer also moved into a tie with Lee Smith for second on the career list with 478 saves.

Orioles 7, Twins 3

In Baltimore, Radhames Liz pitched eight shutout innings, and Baltimore hit five home runs in a victory over Minnesota.

Nick Markakis and Oscar Salazar each homered twice, and Lou Montanez also connected to help Baltimore salvage the finale of the three-game series. The five homers tied a season high for the Orioles, who had only five in their past six games.

Four of the home runs were off rookie Nick Blackburn, who had yielded only four homers in his previous nine starts. Blackburn (10-9) gave up six runs and nine hits in four innings.

Angels 4, Mariners 3

In Anaheim, California, Chone Figgins singled home the winning run in the ninth inning and Mark Teixeira hit his 200th career homer as Los Angeles beat Seattle for a four-game sweep.

Ninth-place hitter Sean Rodriguez tripled just beyond the reach of Ichiro Suzuki with one out. Figgins followed with a drive off the right-field wall against Roy Corcoran (5-1) for his third game-ending hit this season.

Jose Arredondo (9-2) pitched a scoreless ninth for the victory.

Athletics 7, Rangers 4

In Oakland, California, Aaron Cunningham hit his first major league homer, a three-run shot that broke an eighth-inning tie and lifted Oakland over Texas.

Cliff Pennington and Ryan Sweeney drew back-to-back walks from reliever Warner Madrigal (0-2) to open the eighth. Two outs later, Cunningham hit the first pitch over the wall in left field.

Joey Devine (6-1) pitched one scoreless inning for the win. Brad Ziegler worked the ninth for his ninth save in as many chances.

Ziegler allowed a two-out double to Marlon Byrd but got Nelson Cruz to ground out to end the game. Cruz drove in all four Texas runs with a two-run double in the third, an RBI double in the fifth and a single in the seventh.

Royals 13, Indians 3

In Cleveland, Brian Bannister won for the first time in nearly three months and Ryan Shealy homered twice and drove in five runs and Kansas City defeated Cleveland.

Bannister (8-15) gave up four hits and three runs in the first inning, then settled down and won for the first time in 14 starts to snap his nine-game losing streak.

Edward Mujica (2-2) took the loss for Cleveland.

Cassell steps in for Brady to lead Pats past Jets

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. (AP)—Life without Tom Brady might not be so bad for New England after all. Matt Cassel was efficient running the offense in his first NFL start, taking over for the injured quarterback and leading the Patriots over Brett Favre and the New York Jets 19-10 on Sunday.

Cassel, who hadn't started at any level since his senior year of high school, was 16-of-23 for 165 yards, Sammy Morris ran for a touchdown and Stephen Gostkowski kicked four field goals.

The Jets and Patriots receiver Randy Moss said New England was still the team to beat even without Brady, who was lost for the season last Sunday when he injured his left knee against Kansas City.

The Patriots (2-0) then showed why, ruining the Jets' home opener and Favre's first regular-season home start for New York. New England won its 21st straight regular-season game, and beat the Jets for the eighth straight time at the Meadowlands.

Favre went 18-of-26 for 181 yards and a TD for the Jets (1-1), but the Patriots took advantage of a big mistake by the veteran.

With the Jets facing a third-and-22 from their 11, Favre ran out of the pocket to his left and flung a pass to Chansi Stuckey for 28 yards. Three plays later, though, Favre made a poor decision, hanging a pass intended for Chris Baker that was easily picked off by Brandon Meriweather for Favre's first interception with the Jets.

On third-and-9 from the 30, Cassel threw a screen to Kevin Faulk, who got a few blocks and ran down the right sideline to the 8. Two plays later, Cassel hit Wes Welker for 7 yards to get the ball to the 1. Morris then leaped over the pile for a touchdown to make it 13-3.

Stephen Gostkowski added a 28-yard field goal with 17 seconds left in the third quarter.

Favre led the Jets back into it, connecting with Stuckey for a 2-yard touchdown with 10:18 left. Favre was 6-for-6 for 51 yards on the 10-play drive that started on the Jets 20, including a 19-yard pass to rookie Dustin Keller on third-and-6 from the Patriots 39. After a 10-yard reception by Laveranues Coles and an 8-yard run by Thomas Jones, Favre found Stuckey alone in the back right corner of the end zone after Rodney Harrison got tripped up in coverage.

AP

New England Patriots quarterback Matt Cassel calls out a play during the second quarter against the New York Jets in an NFL football game Sunday, Sept. 14, 2008, in East Rutherford, N.J. The Patriots won, 19-10.

Steelers 10, Browns 6

In Cleveland, on a less-than-ideal night for football or any other outdoor activity, the Pittsburgh Steelers made it a perfect 10 over the Cleveland Browns.

Ignoring his sore right shoulder and wind gusts of 60 mph, Ben Roethlisberger threw an 11-yard touchdown pass to Hines Ward as the Steelers made it 10 straight wins over their closest rival, beating the Browns 10-6 on Sunday to extend the NFL's longest current winning streak between two teams.

As is their way, the Steelers wrecked Cleveland's return to prime time after a five-year hiatus. Pittsburgh has won eight in a row in Cleveland, 16 of 17 in the series and 23 of 26 in a rivalry that has been one-sided since the days Roethlisberger was learning how to throw a football as a kid in Findlay, Ohio.

During the game, it was disclosed on TV that Roethlisberger sustained a separated shoulder last week in a win over Houston. But Big Ben didn't seem bothered as he completed 12 of 19 for 186 yards and improved to 10-0 in NFL games inside his home state. The Cincinnati Bengals haven't had any luck in their stadium against him either.

Colts 18, Vikings 15

In Minneapolis, taking a beating all afternoon, Peyton Manning peeled himself off the Metrodome turf and gave it right back to the Minnesota defense. Manning rallied Indianapolis from a 15-0 hole late in the third quarter, moving Adam Vinatieri into position for the winning field goal with 3 seconds left and leading the Colts to an 18-15 victory over the Vikings on Sunday.

Avoiding his first 0-2 start since his rookie season in 1998, Manning zinged a 20-yard pass on third-and-9 to Reggie Wayne up the seam before Vinatieri - who uncharacteristically missed a 30-yarder earlier - for a 47-yard kick.

Minnesota (0-2) wasted yet another strong effort by a dominant defense, failing again to figure out that pesky old forward pass.

Manning definitely has it down, though he hasn't looked his usual sharp self this September following summer knee surgery. He finished 26-for-42 for 311 yards, one touchdown and two interceptions, but those numbers belied the story of the first three quarters.

Adrian Peterson rushed for 118 of his 160 yards in the first half, and the Vikings were in the Colts' half of the field on their first eight possessions - coming away with five field goals by Ryan Longwell, three punts, and an extra dollop of frustration.

Charles Gordon picked off a pass from Manning near midfield early in the third quarter after the ball glanced off Wayne's hand, but Minnesota ran five straight times and reached only the 31.

Longwell, his right leg perhaps tired from doing all the scoring himself, pulled a 48-yard attempt wide right.

Broncos 39, Chargers 38

In Denver, showing ultimate confidence in his offense, Mike Shanahan went for the 2-point conversion with 29 seconds left and Jay Cutler hit rookie Eddie Royal over the middle to give the Denver Broncos a 39-38 win over the stunned San Diego Chargers on Sunday.

The Chargers (0-2) couldn't believe they lost in the final seconds for the second straight week.

Trailing 38-31, the Broncos (2-0) reached the 1 but on third-and-goal, Cutler reared back to throw and the ball slipped out of his hands, bounced off the grass and into linebacker Tim Dobbins' hands.

But referee Ed Hochuli blew his whistle, apparently ruling it an incomplete pass. After a review, Hochuli said that the Broncos would keep the ball because his whistle had blown the play dead. The Broncos got the ball at the 10-yard line, where it had hit the grass out of Cutler's hands.

Two plays later, Cutler hit Royal for the TD to make it 38-37.

Cardinals 31, Dolphins 10

In Glendale, Arizona, Kurt Warner looked like he did in his MVP days, Anquan Boldin certainly wasn't sulking over contract woes, and Larry Fitzgerald caught almost everything thrown his way.

The result was a 31-10 Arizona rout of the Miami Dolphins on Sunday that has the Cardinals 2-0 for the first time in 17 years.

Warner completed 19 of 24 for 361 yards and three touchdowns with no interceptions. Boldin caught all three scores, a career high.

In all, Boldin had six receptions for 140 yards, a franchise record 22nd time he's passed the century mark. Fitzgerald, meanwhile, caught six for 153 yards, his 14th 100-yard game. It was the sixth time the pair had topped 100 yards in the same game.

Warner had a perfect 158.3 passer rating for the third time in his career, tying Peyton Manning for the NFL record.

USC pulls away, Georgia slips again in AP Top 25

NEW YORK (AP)—The Southeastern Conference has taken over the top 10 in The Associated Press college football poll as no league has ever done before. On Sunday, the SEC became the first conference to place five team among the first 10 in the AP Top 25.

Southern California is now a no-doubt-about-it No. 1 and Oklahoma moved into the No. 2 spot for the first time this season, slipping ahead of Georgia in the media poll.

The Bulldogs barely got past South Carolina 14-7 on Saturday and the Sooners notched their third consecutive blowout victory, winning 55-14 at Washington.

Georgia is the first preseason No. 1 since Oklahoma in 1985 to start the season with three consecutive victories and still drop as far as No. 3.

"I'm not surprised that it could happen, because you've seen it happen before," Georgia coach Mark Richt said. "Everybody wants to kind of settle in and see where everybody thinks everybody belongs. It's hard. Shoot, I'm a voter too. It's hard on everybody."

Georgia also fell behind USC and Oklahoma in the USA Today coaches' poll.

The Bulldogs shouldn't fret. They'll have plenty of opportunities to make up what they've lost in the rankings when they play the other SEC's four other top-10 teams. Florida is No. 4, LSU is sixth, Alabama is No. 9 and Auburn is 10.

The Trojans' resounding 35-3 victory against Ohio State on Saturday night made them an overwhelming No. 1 in their third week atop the poll. USC received 61 first-place votes and 1,596 points. The Trojans had 33 first-place votes last week.

Georgia received two first-place votes this week, and Florida got one.

The rest of the top 10 was Missouri at No. 5, Texas at No. 7 - giving the Big 12 three teams in the top 10 - and Wisconsin at No. 8.

Ohio State dropped eight spots to No. 13.

Two Pac-10 teams dropped out after losing: California and Arizona State.

Clemson moved back into the rankings. The Tigers started the season ranked ninth and fell all the way out after losing their opener 34-10 to Alabama, and returned as No. 23.

Florida State moved into the Top 25 for the first time since the middle of last season. The Seminoles were No. 24.

Texas Tech is No. 11, followed by South Florida, Ohio State, BYU and East Carolina, which slipped one spot to No. 15 after squeaking past Tulane 28-24 in its first game as a ranked team since 1999.

Penn State was No. 16 and Oregon was 17th, followed by Wake Forest, Kansas and Utah.

The final five were West Virginia, Illinois, Clemson, Florida State and Fresno State, which lost 13-10 to Wisconsin and dropped four spots.

AP

Southern California wide receiver Damian Williams celebrates in the end zone after catching touchdown pass against Ohio State during the third quarter of an NCAA college football game in Los Angeles, Calif., Saturday, Sept. 13, 2008. USC won, 35-3.

Schools, clubs to benefit from badminton clinic

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
n_rodriguez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The coaching clinic that an officer from the Oceania Badminton Confederation will be conducting here on Saipan will greatly benefit students, club members, and sports enthusiasts, according to the Northern Marianas Badminton Federation,.

NMBF said Tony Mordaunt, regional development manager of OBC, will be going to various schools on Saipan during his 11-day visit on the island.

NMBF President Marconi Calindas, who is regularly communicating with Mordaunt, said the visit primarily aims to promote the sport in schools and clubs. Mordaunt also wants to hold workshops for new coaches.

He will be on Saipan from Oct. 1 to 12 and will make his next stop in Palau to conduct similar coaching clinics.

Both the CNMI and Palau have shown much interest in becoming full fledge members of the OBC, thus Mordaunt's visit will pave the way for their inclusion into the zone's roster.

Mordaunt, who has been playing badminton for 25 years, had previously conducted similar visits to other Pacific countries like Fiji, Tuvalu, and the Norfolk Islands.

"My goal is to make sure I don't just fly in, do some coaching and fly out. We need to assist these countries to become sustainable and help them to develop their players," Mordaunt said in an email to NMBF.

Mordaunt

He added that developing more coaches will go a long way as far as achieving their goal is concerned.

Mordaunt is expected to discuss footwork, mental preparations, and other factors which would make an excellent player.

He will also talk about the health benefits of the sport.

Entry deadline for PILCOWA inaugural caging set for Sept. 23

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
n_rodriguez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Teams wanting to join the first basketball tournament organized by the Pilipino Contract Workers Association will have until Sept. 23 to register.

PILCOWA sports coordinator Pando Muleta said another team has confirmed to participate, bringing the total of interested squads to six as of yesterday afternoon.

The opening ceremonies will be on Sept. 28 at the CIC Building basketball court.

"We're still inviting teams because we need at least eight teams to complete the roster," Muleta said.

There will be a meeting tomorrow Sept. 17 to finalize the preparations for the league. For the details, contact Muleta at 285-9783.

All six teams that had already confirmed their participation are required to submit their final rosters and pay the registration fee at the meeting.

Each team are allowed to have a maximum of 14 players and must pay the $500 entry fee.

In a meeting last week, organizers and participating teams initially discussed details about awards, uniforms, and league rules

Muleta said the champion team will win a trophy and its members will receive medals.

The first and second runner-sup will also get trophies.

There will be awards for the MVP, Mythical Five, best in rebounds, assists, steals, and three-point field goal. A three-point shootout during the playoffs will also be held.

Aside from the regular season MVP, organizers will also recognize the Finals MVP.

The group is also planning to hold an All-Star game before the start of the playoffs.

8 teams joining fast-pitch softball league

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

THE CNMI Softball Association is getting ready for the opening of the 2008 Island-wide Men's Fast-pitch Softball League later this month.

CNMISA president Manny Tenorio said they are hoping to kick off the league at the end of this month if the condition of the power crisis on Saipan continues to improve.

Games in the fast-pitch softball league are played at nighttime at the Miguel Basa "Tan Ge" Pangelinan Softball Field.

Tenorio said so far eight teams had already signified their interests to join the 2008 season of the annual fast-pitch softball league.

Tenorio added they might also hold a competition in the women's division if enough teams register for the league.

Managers or team representatives are asked to attend a meeting on Sept. 18 at 6pm at Gilbert C. Ada Gym's conference room to discuss league rules, game schedules, and entrance fee.

Tenorio said they are looking at holding games twice a week, every Tuesday and Thursday, with two matches in each playing night.

This year's defending champions are the D-9ers, who swept the Tanapag Falcons in last season's best-of-three title series.

The D-9ers clobbered the Falcons in Game 1, 13-2, and foiled the latter's bid to extend the series by cruising to a 15-3 triumph in Game 2.

Last year's championship was the D-9ers seventh straight and they did it without losing a single game in the 2007 season.

The D-9ers swept the double-round robin regular season and defeated the Islanders, 12-1, in the semifinals to advance to the title series against the Falcons.

Tanapag and the Islanders battled for the last finals ticket with the former escaping with a 10-8 victory to earn a title match against the D-9ers.

For more information on the upcoming fastpitch league, contact Tenorio at 285-8366.

Final meeting for SaipanCell/PCA softball tilt tomorrow

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
n_rodriguez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Representatives of participating teams for this weekend's Saipan Cell/Palau Community Association softball tournament are asked to attend a meeting tomorrow at the Northern Marianas Gym starting at 5pm

PCA President Rufino Aguon said copies of the schedule of games will be distributed at the meeting. He added that the $400 registration fee and copies of team rosters are due tomorrow.

The annual tournament is a fundraising activity of PCA.

Defending champion Yes for Casino is expected to participate again in the four-day event to be held in two weekends (Sept. 20-21 and Sept. 27-28) at the Dandan Elementary School Ballfeld.

A cash prize of $1,000 and a specially-crafted will be up for grabs this year .

The tournament will have a double-elimination format and each team is allowed to have a maximum of 15 players. All players and/or members must sign waiver forms. Failure to sign the forms will make a player ineligible to play.

ISF Rules will be used, but homeruns are not allowed. A home run will be considered an out.

For more information, contact Rufino Aguon at 234-5498 ext. 2500, Norman Mobel at 322-9707, Eileen Kintol at 235-6804, and Brian Adelbai at 234-8438.

EX-FOOTBALL

From Page

"An effective coach has the ability to consistently craft fun, safe, and rewarding experience for children drawing upon strong organizational/management leadership, communication, and teaching skills," he said.

Coaches' roles were explained through several situations on and off the field, as mentors were asked how they should act on these circumstances.

Among those mentioned were players arguing or fighting during competition or practice sessions, players arguing with the referee, and players getting injured badly.

Whittle's presentation is timely as the Northern Mariana Islands Football Association will be opening its fall youth league later this month.

Whittle is hoping that coaches who attended the workshop will share the knowledge they learned to fellow mentors and apply them during actual games and practice sessions.

He said if NMIFA builds a solid grassroots and youth program through its various competitions for the youth, he will not be surprised to see football growing in the Commonwealth five years from now.

"By that time, I hope NMIFA will be a FIFA member and have many football clubs in various age groups," Whittle said.

He added that having a small population should not prevent the CNMI from seeking the development of the sports here.

"I think having a small population and small islands can work on CNMI's advantage as far as developing football here is concerned. The sports community here is very close and players have easy access to playing fields. All you need is to get these players to play and make them enjoy the game," Whittle said.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Tampa Bay	88	59	.599	_
Boston	88	61	.591	1
Toronto	80	70	.533	9 1/2
New York	79	70	.530	10
Baltimore	66	82	.446	22 1/2

Central Division

Chicago	83	65	.561	_
Minnesota	82	67	.550	1 1/2
Cleveland	72	77	.483	11 1/2
Detroit	70	78	.473	13
Kansas City	65	84	.436	18 1/2

West Division

Los Angeles	92	57	.617	_
Texas	73	77	.487	19 1/2
Oakland	69	80	.463	23
Seattle	57	91	.385	34 1/2

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

New York	83	65	.561	_
Philadelphia	83	67	.553	1
Florida	77	72	.517	6 1/2
Atlanta	67	83	.447	17
Washington	56	93	.376	27 1/2

Central Division

Chicago	89	58	.605	_
Milwaukee	83	67	.553	7 1/2
Houston	80	68	.541	9 1/2
St. Louis	78	71	.523	12
Cincinnati	68	81	.456	22
Pittsburgh	63	86	.423	27

West Division

Los Angeles	77	72	.517	_
Arizona	72	76	.486	4 1/2
San Francisco	68	81	.456	9
Colorado	68	82	.453	9 1/2
San Diego	57	93	.380	20 1/2

Yesterday's Games

Atlanta 7, N.Y. Mets 4
Florida 8, Washington 7
Pittsburgh 7, St. Louis 2
Philadelphia 7, Milwaukee 3st game
Philadelphia 6, Milwaukee 1nd game
Colorado 1, L.A. Dodgers 0, 10 innings
San Francisco 8, San Diego 6, 10 innings
Cincinnati 2, Arizona 1, 10 innings
Chicago Cubs 5, Houston 0?
N.Y. Yankees 8, Tampa Bay 4
Kansas City 13, Cleveland 3
Boston 4, Toronto 3
Baltimore 7, Minnesota 3
Chicago White Sox 4, Detroit 2 1st game
Chicago White Sox 11, Detroit 7 2nd game
L.A. Angels 4, Seattle 3
Oakland 7, Texas 4

NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE STANDINGS

AMERICAN CONFERENCE

East

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
New England	2	0	0	1.000	36	20
Buffalo	2	0	0	1.000	54	26
N.Y. Jets	1	1	0	.500	30	33
Miami	0	2	0	.000	24	51

South

Tennessee	2	0	0	1.000	41	17
Indianapolis	1	1	0	.500	31	44
Houston	0	1	0	.000	17	38
Jacksonville	0	2	0	.000	26	37

North

Pittsburgh	2	0	0	1.000	48	23
Baltimore	1	0	0	1.000	17	10
Cincinnati	0	2	0	.000	17	41
Cleveland	0	2	0	.000	16	38

West

Denver	2	0	0	1.000	80	52
Oakland	1	1	0	.500	37	49
Kansas City	0	2	0	.000	18	40
San Diego	0	2	0	.000	62	65

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

East

N.Y. Giants	2	0	0	1.000	57	20
Philadelphia	1	0	0	1.000	38	3
Dallas	1	0	0	1.000	28	10
Washington	1	1	0	.500	36	40

South

Carolina	2	0	0	1.000	46	41
New Orleans	1	1	0	.500	48	49
Tampa Bay	1	1	0	.500	44	33
Atlanta	1	1	0	.500	43	45

North

Green Bay	2	0	0	1.000	72	44
Chicago	1	1	0	.500	46	33
Detroit	0	2	0	.000	46	82
Minnesota	0	2	0	.000	34	42

West

Arizona	2	0	0	1.000	54	23
San Francisco	1	1	0	.500	46	53
Seattle	0	2	0	.000	40	67
St. Louis	0	2	0	.000	16	79

Yesterdays's Games

Green Bay 48, Detroit 25
N.Y. Giants 41, St. Louis 13
Indianapolis 18, Minnesota 15
Oakland 23, Kansas City 8
Carolina 20, Chicago 17
Washington 29, New Orleans 24
Tennessee 24, Cincinnati 7
Buffalo 20, Jacksonville 16
San Francisco 33, Seattle 30, OT
Tampa Bay 24, Atlanta 9
New England 19, N.Y. Jets 10
Arizona 31, Miami 10
Denver 39, San Diego 38
Pittsburgh 10, Cleveland 6

By The Associated Press

NMITF Inaugural 'Leapfrog' Race

Photos by
NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.

Eli Torgeson reaches the turning point in Banzai Cliff.

Organizer Fred Camacho explains the rules of the race.

Ready, get set, and go!

Florian Braig prepares for the bike race, while a runner gets ready to sprint.

It's too early for 5-year-old Blake Mister to compete, so he settled for a practice ride.

Ronald Villafria,left, and Butch Sublemente are all smiles after receiving a dental checkup and treatment certificate for winning the race. They are joined by Fred Camacho,right, while other participants cheer for them.

A rider makes a turn toward the finish line in Paupau Beach.

Joshua Berger, right, receives a cup of water from a volunteer.

Russ Quinn picks up his bike in one of the transition points.

Husband and wife tandem Kevin and Mieko Carey celebrate at the end zone.

Schools, clubs to benefit from badminton clinic

The coaching clinic that an officer from the Oceania Badminton Confederation will be conducting here on Saipan will greatly benefit students, club members, and sports enthusiasts. 27

Saipan Tribune
Sports

Zambrano throws no-hitter as Cubs beat Astros

Carlos Zambrano pitched the first no-hitter for the Chicago Cubs in 36 years, returning from a recent bout of rotator cuff soreness to shut down the Houston Astros 5-0 Sunday night. 24

SaiPal stuns Shell Marianas

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
n_rodriguez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

In a reversal of fortune, SaiPal won twice over Shell Marianas to rule the third qualifying round of the 2008 Budweiser King and Queen of the Diamonds Modified Co-ed Slow-pitch Softball Tournament at the Capital Hill Ballfield.

With the win, SaiPal earned a ticket to the Final Four and a chance to represent the CNMI in the Tournament of Champions in November in Palau.

Shell, which won the first (May-17-18) and second (Aug. 2-3) qualifying rounds, had already occupied the No. 1 position in the Final Four to be played on Oct. 11-12.

Natibu, which placed second in the second round, took the No. 2 slot.

The owner of the No. 4 slot will be determined via the wildcard tournament on Oct. 4-5, which will give other teams, Total Chaos, On Da Rox, SUFA, Redemption, and PTI a chance to make up for lost ground.

SaiPal was undefeated in four games, having beaten Redemption, 13-0, and Awel Awel, 11-3, in the preliminaries.

SAIPAN TRIBUNE
Leo Bobai is seen here pitching for SaiPal in the Belau league. Saipan played and ruled last weekend's third qualifying round of the 2008 Budweiser King and Queen of the Diamonds Modified Co-ed Slow-pitch Softball Tournament at the Capitol Hill Ballfield.

Then, SaiPal outsmarted Shell, 4-1, in the semis to advance to the championship game with a twice-to-beat advantage. SaiPal's semis win relegated Shell (formerly No Ka Oi) , the three-time defending champion of the Budweiser Tournament of Champions, to the losers' bracket.

While SaiPal had the chance to rest as it waited for its opponent in the championship game, Shell needed to sweat it out against Natibu before nailing a 14-4 victory.

Shell ran out of gas while Saipal was in control early with five runs at the top of the first inning behind Lefty Shiro, Leo Bobai, Gloyd Martin, Poland Masaharu and Clifton Sillil.

Though, Shell's Roy Celis, Jerry Ayuyu and Manny Sablan showed a semblance of their strong performance in previous matches after the trio scored runs at the bottom of first and cut the deficit to 3-5, SaiPal added four more runs from Kuich Damian, Tyrone Omar, Shiro, and Bobai in the second for a 9-3 lead.

Shell came up with four runs by Celis, Ayuyu, Mel Sakisat, and Manny Sablan in the third to close the gap at 7-9. But SaiPal quickly answered with Bobai and Damian reaching home plate anew in the fifth and sixth inning, respectively, to secure the win, 11-7.

De la Cruz wins Homerun Derby

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
n_rodriguez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Joey de la Cruz hit it big anew as he won the Homerun Derby that served as the side event of the third qualifying tournament of the 2008 Budweiser King and Queen of the Diamonds Modified Co-ed Slow-pitch Softball Tournament at the Capitol Hill Ballfield.

De la Cruz, who played for the eliminated Total Chaos, made six out of 10 to win the contest sponsored by MARPAC and Budweiser.

It was his third of the year.

He also won the derby in the first qualifying round in May by hitting 7-of-10 and two weeks ago in the Marianas Cup.

De la Cruz, who took the first prize of one case of beer and a beach chair, thanked Mark and Bernie Palacios for sponsoring his $10 entry fee.

BJ Sablan of Natibu made three of 10 for second while JR Suel of Shell Marianas was third with one.

Sablan won a beach chair from Budweiser, while Suel went home with a shirt and hat.

Contract signing for 'Rites of Passage 5' starts today

By NAZARIO A. RODRIGUEZ JR.
n_rodriguez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Mixed Martial Arts fighters are expected to start signing contracts today to make the official list of entries to the "Rites of Passage 5": Raging Warriors slated on Sept. 27.

Trench Tech Inc. president and promoter Cuki Alvarez announced that all fighters need to visit the Trench Tech Gym in Afetnas anytime this week for the signing.

Alvarez said the presence of parents of fighters who are in the 18-and-under age group is needed as they have to sign consent forms.

Official weight in will be on Sept. 26 at the Trench Tech Gym between 5pm and 7pm. Fight rules will also be discussed.

Alvarez said all fighters must show up for the meeting to avoid disqualification.

"Fighters who do not attend the weigh-ins and rules meeting may be subjected to replacement by stand-by fighters," he said.

A total of 20 bouts, including the main event between Elite's Derrick 'Pinchi' Rangamar against Trench Tech's Chris "No Luv" Laayug, will be showcased in the Rites of Passage 5.

Laayug and Rangamar are in the 140-lb weight class.

Laayug has a slight edge with his 3-1 win-loss record while Rangamar (2-2) is aiming to pull off an upset.

Twenty-two first time fighters will enter the octagon cage. Some have previous fights but did not win, while only a few have a good record, such as Shane "Pika Boo" Alvarez, who has a 3-0 win-loss mark.

The 130 lbs 'Pika Boo' will face a heavier opponent in 133 lbs Sefich Lorenzo, who will have his baptism of fire in the octagon cage.

"Rites of Passage" is an event that caters mainly to first time fighters and/or those who have fought and want to redeem themselves.

It is a "proving ground" for young up and coming fighters looking to earn their "Rites to Pass" onto the next level.

SAIPAN TRIBUNE
Fighters are tangled in one of the early editions of the "Rites of Passage".

Ex-football pro stresses value of apt grassroots/youth program

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Former Chelsea goalkeeper John Whittle shared his expertise on grassroots and youth football development to more than 40 coaches/players/parents through a one-day workshop held at the Azucena Room II of the Fiesta Resort and Spa Saipan Saturday.

Whittle, who served as national development officer in South Island in New Zealand, emphasized to the participants the importance of giving everyone a chance to play football and creating a tailor-made program for them.

"Kids, whose skills are neither develop or undeveloped, come to the field just for the fun of playing. Winning or losing, allow them to play," said Whittle, who now works for the Asian Football Confederation as acting director of the Grassroots and Youth Department.

Whittle in mentioning the importance of having an appropriate program for grassroots and youth players quoted Horst Wein, a well-known German university lecturer with coaching assignments in 51 countries.

"The coaching programs and competitions for children should be like their shoe size. They should fit perfectly and feel comfortable," Whittle said.

The AFC officials in his succeeding presentation asked participants to discuss the characteristics of players from various age groups, from 6-and-under to 16-and-under, and asked how they should understand and cope up with these traits.

Whittle after the lunch break explained the role of coaches in the grassroots and youth programs.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
John Whittle gestures during the AFC Grassroots and Youth Workshop at the Azucena Room II of Fiesta Resort and Spa Saipan Saturday.

See EX-FOOTBALLon Page 26